

this bill for one year, gets us through a full biennial budget year. Gives us a little more time to adjust. I think generally there is an acceptance of that among those that want to do it. It...it fit with what I thought, I think we need to do it, but maybe for some of you that are concerned about this, perhaps it will ease the adjustment. It is something...this bill is something I think needs to be done, but perhaps we need to adjust a little slower to it as we see the effect of property tax relief. So with that, I urge adoption of this particular amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the Wehrbein amendment. We did have a two-year delay in the takeover by the state because of a number of factors. First off, 1059 follows with LB 1044 and there is a time period needed to adjust, make the changes in 1044 and we have to come back next year, so nothing really gets changed for another year and a-half on that basis, and we wanted to make sure that all of this meshed together, so that was one reason for the delay. The other one is that the current regional structure has contracts that they have signed with providers and those usually run for one or two years so we wanted to give ample time for those to be handled. So there is good reason for the delay. The additional year's delay allows Senator Wehrbein and the Appropriations Committee...we are in the middle of a two year biennial budget, and when we come back there will be another two year budget put together. This gives us a chance to go through three...three years of budgets before we bring this into effect and so that allows, I think, even greater flexibility to the appropriations process rather than bringing it on line in the middle of a biennial budget. And so I agreed with Senator Wehrbein that this was a sensible amendment. I would ask your support for it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wehrbein, there are no other lights on, did you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question before the body is the adoption of the Wehrbein amendment to LB 1059. All those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, on the adoption of Senator Wehrbein's amendment, Mr. President.