

April 1, 1996

LB 1059

SENATOR JONES: You are just taking out the last three now, under the delete from the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Right, and those will just remain into the future until we look at them again.

SENATOR JONES: Um-hum, well this is a shift of money from the county to the state.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR JONES: The governor has always said, no, no, no on that, what is the governor thinking now, you know?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, we have had a discussion and we need to have further discussion. He is concerned. At the same time this Legislature has talked about the need for the state to pick up some of the expenses in property taxes and I think that is a position I believe is a solid one. So, I don't see that we have an unfair exchange here, an exchange for the counties giving up their control of the staffing and these regional programs. We give the county back the money. I mean, basically we take off of their back the funding they have to pay for their property taxes. And that is why they have been supportive of this. The counties have supported 1059 generally because they don't like giving up the power but if an exchange will pick up the expense, they see it as a fair exchange, and that is what we are offering.

SENATOR JONES: The reason I was really concerned about, Region III you know, was really in bad shape just a couple of years ago.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR JONES: And the board, you know, is made up of one county commissioner from each county for twenty-two of them, really got together with administration and they pulled that out and got it in the black now. So, with a lot of corners being cut, so...I am little concerned about giving up that power to that board to do that. That is what is bothering me.

SENATOR WESELY: Well I understand that. There are some advantages obviously of having a regional governing board, they