

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 2000 LB 1135, 1231

to this bill. It is my...a bill that I had, LB 1231, which deals with advisory committees within Health and Human Services that have to do with early childhood education, and we have statutory language for at least two advisory committees and then there are others that are administratively set up. And so my bill would remove the statutory language, kind of merge it all into one advisory committee to be called the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council, so that issues...the idea is to provide better coordination by having one council that is sharing the information that has to do with early childhood. And there are individuals that...very highly qualified individuals who care a lot who serve on both...both of the advisory committees that are statutorily set up and I appreciate their service. I just think that it's critical that we have one...one council that...through whom information is shared. And I also would say that I have a particular interest in this because I was a part, prior to being in the Legislature, of the creation of both of these advisory committees. I served as co-chair of one of them, and I serve on the other, and so I...I have a history with it and I've also learned that sometimes having more does not provide better. And so in this case I think it's...we're going to get better coordination by having less and certainly by having one committee that...through...through whom everything is funneled and so that there is a real coordination of communication. And so if anyone has any questions about...about it, I would be glad to talk to you between now and Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. For discussion on the advancement of LB 1135, Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Schimek and Senator Crosby.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. I, too, would like to rise and thank Senator Schimek for tackling this big job. Her and her staff have worked numerous hours on getting...getting all the information they could about the committees and commissions and so on that are out there. I know we are criticized quite often by our constituents and by our colleagues for setting into place boards and commissions. You have to remember, though, whenever they are created they are created by a majority of this body. This is a step that has been taken to eliminate some of these and I'm