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it is important to have a structured meeting where all the parties sit down at a table, at least quarterly, and discuss their thoughts and their concerns on this matter. This is a very complicated issue and there are several different groups that are affected by the process. I think that it's important that they all have a chance to share their concern and show that they are all involved. The duties of the task force are streamlined by the committee amendment, and it would include providing recommendations and assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services and Policy Cabinet during the following...following the development and implementation of the electronic benefit system. Also it would include monitoring through the development and implementation of the system, making recommendations on policy and implementation, assisting in determining the cost-savings realized by the implementation of the electronic benefit transfers. And I would expect this to include ways to make the system most cost-effective by the public and provide recommendations and assisting during the selection of the necessary vendors. The State Treasurer will be responsible for creating an annual report for the task force. The report will be detailed, it will detail the progress of the task force, their recommendations and findings, in addition to the progress of the actual implementation of the system. The report will be distributed to the Legislature and the Governor. I placed this duty to the treasurer in order to reduce the stress upon the Health and Human Services staff in meeting deadlines and to maintain the impartiality of the task force and its reports. The task force will meet at least quarterly...on a quarterly basis while the EBT system is being developed and implemented. The bill does not allow them to meet more frequently than is needed or it does allow them to meet more frequently, if they feel it is needed. Following the implementation, there would continue to be quarterly meetings to monitor the progress and share concerns. The task force would terminate on January 1, 2004, which is estimated to be about a year after the implementation is required. I understand that HHS are working against a federal deadline to establish the implementation of the EBT in Nebraska. I believe that deadline is October of the year 2002, that it must be running, before we are penalized by the federal government. The goal of this task force is not to bog down the process or cause us to miss deadlines. However, I feel that it's important that this task