

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1217, 1349

is not a part of Child Support Enforcement Division, which is under services in Health and Human Services, whereas CHARTS, the computer piece of it, is under the finance side of it. That separation may be at least partly at the heart of our problem. So the problem that we have is not related to whether we have an SDU, it is not related to child support enforcement, and it's not related to the decision to have the State Treasurer have the SDU. We are bringing in, I mean the department is bringing in IBM and they're going to ask IBM three questions. Is there any way that we can do the work...if the work has to be done as extensively as we have been led to believe, can we do it any sooner? Can we put more resources to it and get it done sooner? Because when you are being faced with the level of fines that we're talking about, the resources may be...if we can get it done sooner, it may be worth the cost. Should we consider outsourcing it, which was determined when they entered into this to be too expensive, but now in light of everything may have been a better decision. And the third and very important issue is the management structure, and is there anything that we should do in terms of the way that we are managing CHARTS that could be different? Should we move it back underneath child support enforcement? Which I think is something that we definitely should consider. From our point of view from a process point, one of the things that you have to understand is that the committee is frustrated, as anybody can possibly imagine, about our ability to manage the costs of all of our computer systems. We though, we the Legislature, have done something...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...in regard to that, and that is to establish the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. They have put together a statewide technology plan. And, under LB 1349, we are going to be giving them more authority in terms of having oversight in some of these enormously expensive computer problems. And so we may, at least from a structural standpoint, without focusing just on the CHARTS aspects which, as several people have said, we have too much experience that we have made mistakes in this regard too many other times, have put in place a way that we can begin to address our computer issues. And hopefully it will help, but it will help in the future. And