

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

March 31, 2005 LB 4

instead of to...instead of the Governor appointing this person, to the Legislature by resolution appointing this person. Because I don't think there's a separate...I mean, there's a real interesting separation of powers question here, because this person is not only an administrator...we characterize him in the bill as an administrator, but that is a misnomer of sorts, in...to the extent that it doesn't recognize this person is also a lawmaker. And so it would seem to me that it would be more appropriate if the Legislature appointed this person than if the Governor did. So, Senator Thompson, I would ask for your impressions on that, to begin with.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Thompson, would you yield?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. You know, it's nothing I'm going to have a whole lot of heartburn over. The current administrator is Mike Reddish. He's done it for a very long time. He's in the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Juvenile Services is in the Department of Health and Human Services. My hope would be the Governor wouldn't appoint...would appoint someone who is someone practicing in this area. That's the way it's been done thus far. I don't know if the Legislature knows who the practitioners are in the department, the various departments, who would be effective doing this. I think we would have to seek that out. I guess I prefer it with the Governor, but if the Legislature wants to change it, I wouldn't fight that. I think it's...it needs to be a technical person who deals with this stuff on a daily basis and has oversight and knowledge, and the Governor is probably the one who'd find that person easier than us, when we don't have the agencies to sort through. That's...it isn't...well, that's my view, I guess. I don't care if you want to do it the other way.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Howard, what would be your perspective?

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Howard, would you yield?

SENATOR HOWARD: Oh, sir, that is a...that is a very interesting idea. The way this has worked in the past, when I've utilized