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

April 3, 2006 LB 1248

recommend that the changes wait for the whole Legislature, this language says that the department can just ignore them, that the committee's request shall not be binding on the department. what my amendment does is quite simply says that the report can be filed. We can go through these processes, but because of the significance of what can be done here and because you all are going to want to be a part of these changes or I would think you would be, you would want to be, it says, "No rules and regulations proposed under this section shall be finally adopted implemented prior to the conclusion of the next complete legislative session following submission of the final report identified in this section." So in other words, with every set of changes that they come in with, and I'm assuming that there will be a gathering of minds and a process by which a number of people will agree upon a whole set of changes and when those set of changes come forward, this amendment provides that you and I and everybody in the Legislature, before the change is made, will have an opportunity in this...in a legislative session to say yea or nay to the change. Committees are very important. The Health Committee is very important, but no committee should speak for this entire Legislature. I don't think you would want any committee speaking for the entire Legislature, much less do I think you would want any committee speaking for the entire Legislature next year or anytime in the next few years when half of those committees or more will be manned with senators who have not been here very long at all. So the judgment of the committee that you have today will be diluted by the fact that huge inexperience will be a part of every committee. And so I think more than ever the judgment of the entire Legislature on changes of this magnitude is called for, is reasonable. system was not constructed in one or two or three years. constructed over decades. The changes that will come down from the federal government will not be so rapid that we cannot intelligently react to them in the space of an additional six months. That's what it would be, about. In other words, the report is supposed to come in the first of December. They would need to get that material there in an orderly fashion. And instead of it going into effect immediately or immediately upon the committee's recommendation, it would not go into effect until the legislative session was over, be that in mid-April or be that at the beginning of June, depending on which year you're