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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004      LB 1083

program, or involved to a certain extent, more so than the Department of Economic Development, does it make sense to you that this assistance should come through an agency that's run...or that's involved, meaning should it come through HHS rather than DED?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may go.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Senator, I would respond that we currently have in place, under DED, the Affordable Housing Trust, and since they administer it for a number of other purposes and groups, I think it would be a conflict for us to split it out. I think that it makes sense that we have the personnel there who have experience in dealing with this, and we already actually have the people there, that it makes sense to leave it where it is. If we were to move it over to HHS, I think we would probably have to add staff which, at this point in time, we probably don't have the money for in the budget.

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, I appreciate it that. I'm not after adding staff. But, you know, Senator Byars, when he introduced LB 549 in 2001, he split off part of the Affordable Housing Trust, which again is an economic development tool, and he put that under the control of HHS. And reading through the transcripts, Ron Ross who, of course, was the director of HHS at the time, he indicated that HHS would be able to be a little more responsive as it related to the Homeless Shelter Assistance Fund. And again, what I'm saying is that I think it would be accomplished the same way, providing housing for these individuals, but it seems to me to make sense that it should be done under the HHS arm rather than the economic development arm.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Well, Senator, I would say that you could do it either way. I think at this point in time, because of the staffing, as it exists currently, we should leave it in DED, but I would also say that we have a little more flexibility. In the amendment, the appropriate funding that was agreed to by Appropriations and the Governor is laid out there, so that we know for three years we have guaranteed those funds for this particular need. But after an infusion, we may find that we may have more needs under other categories in that fund, and so I