

LB1054 LB302

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any of the constitutional agencies. We have not given block grants this year. We have a staff of 15 people that do this. Sometimes we're accused of the fact that we take the staff recommendations too often but I can't see any reason to hire an attorney and then not take his advice. We've asked for direction of spending, we've also asked to have a plan and then we would budget to the plan and they would also budget themselves to their plan. It's never been done before. No one has a plan. All they've ever wanted is a block grant of money and whatever they can talk us out of. They could spend the way they want to. I agree with Senator Carpenter. We have to have this although I'm not too sure all he's trying to do is soften you up to put more money in it. But...but...never the less....never the less...that's what we've tried to do. And the direction is in the budget in language if you'll read it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh. Is Senator Cavanaugh in the chamber?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Marvel the relationship between the LB1054 appropriation, these regional appropriations, and LB392 - whether there's a conflict there or whether they work together?

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Stahmer, do you want to respond and then I can supplement it if you don't get a satisfactory answer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Fine, fine. Mr. President and members of the Body, it would be my interpretation now that we have certain dollar amounts specified by these regions. There is a standing committee amendment that hasn't been presented yet. The amounts shown in your bill for the six regions come out to, I believe, two dollars per capita across the state, namely and roughly, three million dollars and then those six regions are cut up on a per capita basis. There is a standing committee amendment that would chop all of these figures in half and allow half of the money specifically to go out to the regions for Community Mental Health and the other half be discretionary between Community Mental Health and the operation of the Regional Centers. If LB302 were to pass, I would assume that it would then take an "A" bill to take the formulas in LB302 and make adjustments to what is in this bill and plug in the differential if...and I would think the aid bill would have various types of figures for each of the six regions depending on what we're doing there now and what the formula in LB403 called for. It would be fairly complex. It can be done. That's assuming, of course, if we ever get to LB302 and/or pass it which is problematical.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: All right now, in LB302, there was a fiscal impact of three million and your appropriation here in your amendment would be three million one twenty-five?

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, the difficulty arises that some of this money that is called regional or community mental health is actually being spent out of the regions itself. And I think it would take a breakdown of an "A" bill with LB302 to really break out what is actually community mental health and what is not going on within the regions. I think this lump sum shown here, the total is probably halfway accurate, but I think it would take more of an explanatory type A bill to assuming that we pass the bill with the standing committee amendment. We're not even sure yet we're going to adopt.... I mean they haven't been presented yet. So, we...right now, we've got one formula in the bill. We've got another formula