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LB 684

does, as I mentioned before, it combines the Drug and Alcoholism Departments. The Drug Department is a separate agency and the Alcoholism Department is in DPI. We are combining the two and putting the combined department in DPI. This does not change any of the personnel, any of the operation of the two departments. It just consolidates them, puts them in the Department of Institutions and the Department of Institutions shall pick the director, whichever of the two directors they want for a director for the department and the dollars...it does not spend one nickel more or less. Well it is possible it could spend less by attrition. They will lose some people and not replace them but it does not call for any new money now at all and it just does not, absolutely does not change any duties one way or the other for either department. It just consolidates the two into one department. Move we advance it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Powers.

SENATOR POWERS: ...Senator Goodrich a question.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR POWERS: Are these two programs currently funded separately?

SENATOR GOODRICH: They are currently funded separately, right.

SENATOR POWERS: Now this would create a comingling of the funds?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Well the first year we are leaving the budgets just like they are right now and in fact, the Appropriations Committee is handling it just that way. So because there is a difference between the percentages of federal versus local dollars on the two so we are leaving the two be funded, the two operations be funded the same as they are right now except that they be funded in the same office.

SENATOR POWERS: Well I would be concerned if this bill in any way, shape or form would depreciate the efficiency of the alcoholic treatment program...

SENATOR GOODRICH: No, in fact...

SENATOR POWERS: ...because they have made great strides and the drug treatment program has a long way to go but I would be concerned if the comingling of the funds would result in diminishing the efforts in alcoholic efforts area.