

They said that they had a number of cases that have come up. There is another statute and I think we have got something for you Dennis Martin there will hand to you now. There is a present statute, Senator Chambers, that allows for county boards to commit drug users. There is already a statute to do that. It allows them to commit and to send directly to DPI institutions. This has been invoked rarely because of a number of reasons and one of them is it doesn't provide hardly any rights for the individual being sent to an institution and so the county boards and the DPI felt we have an established system, they wanted to get rid of the one we have now and utilize the other. And I should also mention, Senator Chambers, what they said was, okay, they don't utilize this drug user commitment law they now have very often at all. They don't like it. But what they do is they find some other way to get them commitment, a commitment. It is sort of a backdoor thing which nobody likes and I don't like particularly. They will find, you know, maybe they will charge them with mental illness or alcoholism or something else and find a way to commitment than through the commitment act without being up front about the drug part of it. So they are getting committed already. They didn't say how many, but they are utilizing a backdoor approach that I don't like and I would rather have them just be up front about it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here is the point I am trying to arrive at, Senator Wesely, because I wasn't familiar with this information that you are giving me now, and I don't like that. So the department and I are together in that. So what they are going to do is take something which is worse and simply make it bad, you know, bad, worse, worst; or maybe from worst down to worse. The point I am trying to get to is what kind of problem have they demonstrated which would make any kind of involuntary commitment necessary?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh. They didn't have any figures, like I said, as to a number of people committed under it or anything because, like I said, they utilize other means to do it so they can't...there is lots of commitments, obviously across the state under this act. How many are because of drug use and then called something else, I don't know, but it was substantial enough that they felt it was important to have this change. I don't have a figure to quantify it, Senator Chambers.