

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, if what they want is a commitment and they can obtain it presently, why then since the machinery is there will they not do it on the basis of drug abuse rather than find some other means? Use a different label for the person's condition, I think, is what you are saying.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, evidently that statute, 83-701 to 707, for a number of reasons they just don't want to utilize and...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could it be considered unconstitutional?

SENATOR WESELY: I am not sure about that. They evidently have used it but just not very frequently. I will tell you one problem they have with it, Senator Chambers, is that statute says you can only commit directly to a regional center and what they want is some more flexibility under the Mental Health Commitment Act. They don't necessarily commit directly to a regional center, although that is what you frequently will find. Instead, they can commit to a local hospital or an outpatient treatment program, or, you know, all kinds of other means to help these people, I guess. So it gives them a little more flexibility in not having to send them straight to the institution. They might find some other way to help them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, thank you. I am not going to try to impede the movement of this bill at this time. I don't think I could do it anyway because you and I are the only ones interested in it. But I am going to put a "no" vote up there to make clear that I have reservations about it, then I will talk to you further before it comes up for consideration on Select File.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chris Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I also would have a couple of questions for Senator Wesely. Just so I understand how these definitions fit together a little bit, Don.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.