

not responded appropriately and they certainly are not responding in such a manner as to meet the federal requirements for expedited action at this point in time. So what is coming from the federal government shortly, the next step down the line is to require that all parts of our system function so that the expedited time lines can be met. So what we...what the State of Nebraska is doing is anticipating that and trying to set up alternative systems to the county attorneys who don't want to do it that will be able to do it on an expedited basis.

SENATOR HIGGINS: But we don't have any guarantee that the Attorney General's Office is going to have the time or the inclination to work any harder. Couldn't we next year, now I am saying, amend the bill as it now stands, take out the Attorney General's Office, put it back the way it was before, the Social Services Department working with the county attorneys outstate and all over, and let the bill proceed, and we won't have to have that transfer and training over in the AG's Office and we won't need this amendment that says give them until July 1st, and it probably would reduce the fiscal impact. We have LB 600 hanging from last year, so when LB 600 comes up next January, we can then turn around and take this bill that will become law and take out the Attorney General completely and everything that is not necessary for the federal mandate, and we can put something in there to force...to make the county attorneys do their job.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I don't know how you can force the county attorneys to do their job.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They are very independent people. You can't...unless you are going to change the nature of their position, you are not going to be able to do that. And what you are saying can technically be done, but for a number of reasons I would be very much opposed to creating a bureaucracy within the Department of Social Services and that is basically (interruption).

SENATOR HIGGINS: We're probably just going on, Senator, I mean we are just transferring from Social Services to the AG's Office right now...