

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Wesely a question, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I've had people discuss, Senator Wesely, about the case management moving from the mental retardation areas to the state level. I'd like to know just what's involved in that and I'd like to know what the fiscal impact would be on that over a number of years.

SENATOR WESELY: All right. First off, that has been the major concern that we've attempted to address in different discussions and negotiation with the various regions. We're still, obviously, trying to make sure that everybody feels comfortable with that, but our commitment is to work through and involve all interested people as much as possible in developing that system which, under the amendment we just adopted, would be put forth in a plan in December and then we wouldn't actually start implementing it till in March or beyond, depending on the fiscal impacts of it. And so what are the fiscal impacts? I guess I don't know exactly at this point until we see what that plan looks like.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, so where would the case management workers come from then? If they're not in the mental health districts, where would they come from?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, I see. Currently, they're now...what we do under this bill is the ones that are there now, and there are case managers now, each...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Right, I realize that, yes.

SENATOR WESELY: ..would essentially shift to the state level, at least that's the vision, but we're, again, we have to work out how that happens and some of the details so...

SENATOR ROBINSON: So it really wouldn't be the hiring of more people; would just be a shift...

SENATOR WESELY: No.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ..across the board shift...