

through the language found on line 21.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Madam President. This is the second half of the original amendment to the committee amendments that I'd explained earlier. It's a philosophical problem that I have with giving the authority of the director of the Department of Health the option to, in effect, veto what the regional planning groups come up with as far as a recommendation is concerned. I think that's too much power to vest in the director. I think it can become political and I'm very worried about that. I think that the decisions, as they're made by the regional board of health, if we choose to put that type of process in place it should be done with adequate safeguards without one person having a veto power over...over this plan, so I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Senator Byars, this is the one on the Health director and the regional plan?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. I can support this amendment as well. We put it in here just to try and make sure there's an oversight of the state level on the state planning process and that will occur as the plans are integrated into the state plan, so I think that this is fine. And we do want to empower those local communities to have that local control on planning and this will reemphasize that they do have that significant responsibility, so I would support the Byars amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Does anyone else wish to speak to the Byars amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Byars? Closing is waived. We'll now vote on the Byars amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Byars' amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Senator Wesely, for