

about the "learnfare" concept, we do put in here that after the first year of implementation, which would again be in the Douglas-Sarpy County area before it goes statewide, the department will review the impacts of "learnfare," did it work, did it not work, before they take it and apply it statewide. Similarly, the family cap, which has been of concern to some individuals, we would ask that before they take that statewide, how did it work in the first year or however long the first phase of it goes through, and we can always retrace our steps. If it doesn't work, if it isn't constructive, we can always reverse it, but, in addition, the department doesn't have to carry it forward and take it across the state, they can...they can drop it...

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...or...or modify it to make it more effective. The second to the last thing that we have in here is an ombudsman and the Legislature's ombudsman's office to deal with welfare services. This gives the Legislature resources to oversee the changes in the welfare system, to monitor and track for us what's happening there, to help deal with the cases that Senator Chamber talks about, all the different cases he gets, which all of us get to some degree, of welfare problems and somebody there who is an expert and specifically focused in on this to help the Legislature deal with the cases that come up as a result of the reform and make some changes in those. And then, finally, we include in this amendment the A bill. Senator Chambers has filed a number of amendments to the A bill and has talked about carrying a long discussion about that and our thinking is to cut down time on that issue we would just incorporate it into the main line bill. We've asked Senator Moore about that and he, I understand, has been agreeable to that.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: I would be happy to answer questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, your light is on. Excuse me, there are amendments to the amendment, so never mind, Senator Wesely.