

at the Hastings Regional Center, and they have no problem getting on that waiting list prior to their parole date. They can go right out there the date of parole. However, if they want to go to private, they can go to private too.

SENATOR WESELY: So the idea is to add the option of private treatment as well as at the Hastings Center. Is that the idea?

SENATOR PEDERSEN: No, the idea of this is, presently the law says they have to have treatment before they can even be paroled.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: And there is part of...there is some of that population out there that they can't get treatment to, protective custody is one.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: So this bill does nothing more, or amendment does nothing more than say the Parole Board can waive the situation that they have to have treatment before they are paroled as long as they agree to go to treatment immediately upon parole.

SENATOR WESELY: And the treatment being for a drug or alcohol addiction?

SENATOR PEDERSEN: That's right.

SENATOR WESELY: But it's optional, I mean, it would be at the discretion of the Parole Board?

SENATOR PEDERSEN: It is still at the discretion of the Parole Board but it is not a requirement with this amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: I see. Well, I agree that we have a backlog out at Hastings. We all know that. It is a tremendous problem, again, another example of underfunding some of these services, unfortunately. But this doesn't sound like too bad a compromise, I guess, having this discretion made. Hopefully, the public will be protected, obviously, but it sounds like a reasonable effort to recognize the problems of the backlog, so I will support it.