

135.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The bill is advanced. LB 239, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 239 offered by Senators Landis, Barrett, Peterson and Beyer. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Health and Human Services, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, on the committee amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, LB 239 was heard by the Health and Human Services Committee. It deals with two subject areas, one dealing with a conflict of interest concern regarding the Department of Social Service employees that were appointed to the board last year. The broad language in the bill would preclude that from happening in the future. The other element of the bill was the actual makeup of the board. Currently, there are seven members on the board, two from each of the three congressional districts and one at-large spot. There isn't a particular restriction on who can belong to the Foster Care Review Board and the Governor makes those appointments. The original bill called for that to change and to have three positions appointed by the local boards of...Foster Care Review Boards, and our thought was in the committee that the Governor ought to continue to make the appointments but to select from the committee chairpersons from these local Foster Care Review Boards. So that is the committee amendment. Also, a conflict of interest was thought to potentially exist among court employees and so that is added in the committee amendments as well. So, again, the committee amendments do provide that the Governor would make selections and would go from six to...I mean, from seven to nine members a board and three of those nine members would be selected by the Governor from local chairpersons of Foster Care Review Boards.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Wesely. On the committee amendments, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, a question of Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wesely, in the changes I guess it would fall within the committee amendments and it makes no difference