

LB 91, was introduced by Senator Conway to add biotinidase as one of those diseases tested for. And so rather than having two bills out here, we just merged LB 91 into LB 385 and that is essentially the committee amendments. We did make some other changes that are mostly technical in nature but I want to emphasize that LB 385 with the committee amendments will incorporate LB 91, which would require the testing for biotinidase. And let me on that note tell you that that is a disease that is new. Only one state now tests for it, but from indications, it looks like it would be wise to do so. The test costs are not extreme and the potential for saving these children from the disease if they are identified as having it are very great, and so the lifesaving, life enhancing benefits are very great for that proposal. I do raise a caveat, we have been checking to see, because we are so fresh in this area of biotinidase, whether or not the tests are available and whether or not they are costly or not costly, and whether they are accurate, and from the initial information I have received, I feel comfortable with this addition. Most of the labs in the state do have the ability to test for this, and if they don't, it wouldn't be hard for them to get the equipment to do that. So that is the first question. The second one on accuracy, it appears as though that isn't a problem at this point. And the third thing is on the cost, it doesn't look like it will be very costly. I think the cost is quite manageable. Who bears the cost? It is borne by the parents of the children. When you have a child now, they are already tested in a couple of these areas. Blood tests are taken. From that very same test, blood sample, you can test for biotinidase and so the actual cost increase is not going to be very great. I think the potential for saving these people great agony and loss of life makes a lot of sense. So, I would support the committee amendments and ask that the body adopt them.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Conway, on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR CONWAY:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, as Senator Wesely ably pointed out, LB 91 was incorporated into and for the most part is the...constitutes the committee amendments. I would strongly urge the body to adopt the amendments and, also, to then advance LB 385 with the committee amendments. I think it is an important addition. I offered LB 91 with the idea that by standing alone in and of itself it was important, and now that it would be the committee amendments to LB 385, I would strongly urge your support.