

allow a kind of a built-in defense, and that is that if a pet or some other animal is neglected, or not watered or abandoned, the built-in defense is, that's not my animal, that's my 7-year-old kid's animal. It does take out the problem that we've run into, and that is that people going out and affirmatively causing harm to animals, and there would be no criminal liability in that situation. I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Lindsay amendment? Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Moore and Dierks.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I would support this, but I guess I would have a question. I still read this as being owned. So what Senator Morrissey was referring to, or other shenanigans that go on really isn't speaking to this particular issue, because it said when an animal is owned by a minor child, I mean that's within the family that you're...this section refers to, as I interpret it. It's not the casual chicken running down the block. (Laugh.) So, I mean I understand what we're getting at, but on the other hand, I would think that there ought to be more responsibility here than just mischief that we would commit within a neighborhood or within an area. This does say when an animal is owned by a minor child. So it's actually doing this kind of activity to their own animal, if I interpret that correctly.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Was that a question directed at Senator Lindsay?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Would you respond, sir?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Oh, boy. I think the question was...you were driving at the first language of the section, is that correct, Senator?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, the Section 8. I didn't think we were into the issue of what a child would do to someone else's animal. We'd been talking about when an animal is owned by a minor child. Now am I wrong?

SENATOR LINDSAY: No, I think...and I may have mischaracterized