

committee amendments vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Rasmussen, on the bill.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, LB 1035 is to...is being introduced for the purpose of attempting to rectify one of the problems with our Central Registry for reporting child abuse and neglect. There are actually many problems with this registry and I suspect that Senator Chambers, from being around here when it was first introduced, knows full well what some of those are. As a result of my investigation on this particular piece of legislation, I have proposed an interim study and also have an agreement from the department to do a full review of the procedures regarding the Central Registry. What I'm offering today is simply to serve as a means for giving fair notice to people if their name is going to be put into the Central Registry. The way it works now, if a report is made, that name goes into the Central Registry. An investigation is done and then when the decision is made whether or not to keep it into the registry, there is a policy within the department that they're supposed to verbally tell the person that...what...that they're going to put their name in the registry. However, this seems to not always happen and so what we are recommending here is that the department must send a certified letter to the person indicating that the investigation is complete, what the final report findings were and whether or not their name is going to be put in the Central Registry and that they have a right to appeal that. They actually have the right to appeal that right now but no one is telling them that they have right and they wouldn't appeal it if they didn't know their name was going in there. What has happened, unfortunately, is sometimes reports have been made, investigations have gone on but no word has ever gone to the person that's being accused and they don't know they're being accused, don't know their name is in the registry until they apply for a job and find out when somebody searches through the registry that their name shows up and then there's a question about whether or not they can be hired for that job. That has happened to several people and we're trying to stop that from occurring again with this particular legislation. With that, I would urge that you support its passage.