

April 11, 1994      LB 1224

SENATOR MCKENZIE:      Madam President, I would move the E & R amendments be adopted.

PRESIDENT ROBAK:      Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The amendments are adopted.

CLERK:      The first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Schimek. (AM4288 appears on page 1857 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK:      Senator Schimek, to open on her amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK:      Yes, Madam President and members of the body, this has to do with the "learnfare" provision of the bill that we were discussing last week and before I actually introduce my amendment I would like to have the opportunity to have Senator Wesely explain where we are on the amendment if he would, and I'd also like a Page because I have a substitute amendment here.

PRESIDENT ROBAK:      Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY:      Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Schimek had expressed concern on General File as had Senator Crosby and Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler about the "learnfare" elements of the bill. And as you may recall we did adopt an amendment offered by Senator Beutler regarding how that would be applicable. And if you look on page 18 of the E & R amendments to LB 1224, on page 18, starting on line 2 the section now in question would read the adults in the recipient family shall ensure that the minor child regularly attends school. Education is a valuable personal resource. The cash assistance provided to the recipient family may be reduced when the parent or parents have failed to take reasonable action to encourage the minor children of the recipient family ages sixteen and younger to regularly attend school. Then it goes on to talk about the intent of the Legislature that a process be developed between the case manager, the parent or parents and the school to address issues relating to school attendance. So with the wording by Senator Beutler there can be no, first off it goes from "shall" to "may" with the amendment that the committee offered and with the Beutler language goes to the very point of the issue that if the parents or parent do not take reasonable action to encourage. So in other words, they're not