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April 13, 1999      LB 512, 610, 652

committee amendments and I believe Senator Robak, are you the one who's going to handle the committee amendments?

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR ROBAK: Madam Speaker, the committee amendments..the adopted committee amendment is a combination of several bills heard by the committee which will become a part of the LB 652. As you heard Senator Thompson explain, under the provisions of 652, the Department of Health and Human Services, with the assistance of the Department of Administrative Services, will develop and adopt a juvenile correctional facilities master plan to guide decisions regarding the renovation, improvement and construction of juvenile centers and correctional facilities. The bill would create the Juvenile Corrections Facilities Improvement Fund to be used to implement the master plan and would be funded by a two-cent increase in the cigarette...a 0.02 increase in the cigarette tax to commence as soon as the bill is signed with the E clause. From July 1, 1999 and continuing to July 1, 2004, this amount per pack is to be credited to the Juvenile Corrections Improvement Fund. Two bills, LB 512 and LB 610, both seeking to control juvenile detention costs incurred by the counties, were heard by the Judiciary Committee. LB 512 simply transferred the juvenile county's services costs to the state Office of Juvenile Services while LB 610 required the transfer of legal custody to the state of the juvenile requiring out-of-home placement. In doing so, much of the costs were transferred either to the parents or to the state. Portions of these two bills are incorporated into the amendment to LB 652. Homeless and neglected children may be left in their own homes, placed with some reputable citizen of good moral character, placed with a suitable family, or placed in the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services. The counties would not be liable for the costs. Children adjudicated for what would be misdemeanors, felonies, traffic violations, may continue under the jurisdiction of the court, either on probation or at home under the supervision of a probation officer. Health and Human Services will pay for the care, custody and maintenance during this time, with no liability assessed against the counties. These changes ensure