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LB 346

rights. That is existing law. So I think the law is adequate to permit a termination of parental rights for a parent who by reason of mental illness or who by reason of mental deficiency is causing continuous harm to a child. I don't believe this provision is necessary in the law. It seems to me that it is an archaic provision. It is one that will not be used very often and it is one we could well live without. I don't think that we ought to single out mental condition as a condition for terminating parental rights and it is for that reason I do offer this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to vigorously opposed Senator Vard Johnson's amendment. Now as I told you the other day, the purpose of this bill is to codify, to put in order this particular section of law. Now what we are coming in here at the last minute and attempting to really make a big change. Now if one thing is sensitive it is the termination of parental rights and what we are attempting to do is to put down on paper what they are at the present time. Now you will recall also, this particular bill has an effective date a year away. Now if Senator Johnson wants to change this, then let's work with those who have been working to recodify this for many years and put it into the law within the next year, not here on a moment's notice. This is not a little thing he is talking about. If there is anything sensitive among parents and courts that are handling these types of cases it has to do, one of the sensitive areas has to do with the termination of parental rights. As I recall from some of the testimony or from someone who was talking to us about this, a certain parent went off the deep end, as we say sometime, and imagined that their children were rats and they were trying to kill them. Well, certainly such a situation should provide some means of severing the parental rights. Now, and I can't emphasize on you strongly enough what Senator Vard Johnson is trying to do here in a moment's notice. If it is important, if he is correct, if he can influence the people who have been busy trying to put this into a readable form, then let's do it within the next year and the next session Senator Johnson should come in and add such an amendment. I really hope you will defeat this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question for Senator Johnson.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson, will you respond?