

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, and in conformity with what Senator Landis has suggested, I would move to suspend the rules to allow the body to consider the separate juvenile court and to grant to the body the opportunity to have a somewhat broader interpretation of Rule 7, Section 4, as it relates to the issue of germaneness. I would just state again that though the juvenile court is a section of the statutes, is separate from the district court section, that there is...that is not the right rule number I guess...but the rule concerning germaneness, that this is substantially the same subject and, though the sections are different, it is substantially the same and should be considered here. I might offer two points, one, a little history, last year this bill was on the consent calendar and my good friend and colleague, Senator Chambers, moved to have it stricken from the consent calendar, and, secondarily, that this bill was voted out of committee onto the floor and so it has had, at least in the last two sessions of this Legislature has been voted out of committee and onto the floor of the Legislature. So I would ask the indulgence of the body to suspend the rules to allow me the opportunity to move this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, would you care to...

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President. It is a rare instance when I can say that an opinion was not, in fact, accurate but I think in this instance it probably wasn't. They deal with an area there that is virtually the same. They both are district court judges and I am surprised that we have to go through this process, but I guess if we must, we must. There is a need. There is no question that there is a need. This is probably one of those bills where there is a greater need than any, one of the most important bills that we will have because we are dealing with neglected children. Granted, they don't have some high-paid lobbyist to help them out and maybe that is their problem. There are issues that are carried by groups that feel their issues are more important, but, as far as I am concerned, taking care of children, taking care of neglected or abused children is probably one of the most important things we can do here in the body. Again, I would say it is virtually the same bill, but I rise to, wholeheartedly, support Senator Ashford's motion.