

CLERK: Mr. President, 182 is a bill introduced by Senators Coordsen, Bernard-Stevens, Scofield, Ashford, Lindsay, Schellpeper, Labedz, Kristensen and Moore. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, Mr. President, referred to Judiciary. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Judiciary Committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: On the committee amendments, Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, 182 is a bill that creates a review panel in certain juvenile cases when the court ordered treatment plan conflicts with the treatment plan of the Department of Social Services. Senator Coordsen will address the bill shortly. The committee amendments are on page 1144 of the Journal, and the amendments were brought to us by the introducer. These are basically technical amendments designed to clarify the intent of the bill, ensure the process is completed in a timely fashion and provide for emergency placement situations involving a youngster. That's basically what the amendments are, and I would ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, on the amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, I think to explain the committee amendments and the necessity for adopting them we should background the history of this bill just a little bit. This bill was brought about as a result of a Supreme Court decision in January of 1988 and some problems that members of the county and juvenile courts had with how that impacted the placement and the care and treatment of juveniles when they were assigned to the Department of Social Services, wards of the court. In the process of developing the bill that we have in the green copy, that process, basically, consisted of a by-mail transmission of various proposals to a number of interested parties. By the very nature of the process, it was somewhat lengthy. About mid-December I said that we had to prepare our bill for introduction and that further changes that were felt...further modifications in the bill should be done at the hearing. The last modification then of LB 82 (sic) is the committee amendments, which were presented to the Judiciary Committee at the time of the hearing. What they provide for is that to ensure the language is plain that only contested placements will be afforded the review process