

people falling through the cracks of a system that has no hearing process insofar as the courts are concerned, where some of the basic civil rights of juveniles are generally stripped from them, simply by having them awarded to a state agency by the court. So what does 182 do? LB 182 is the result of a rather significant amount of work on the part of a number of judges in the State of Nebraska, a number of child care agencies...entities, I should say, child care entities in the State of Nebraska in trying to provide a process, a process whereby the rights of the juveniles can be better protected and also a process whereby the budget of the State of Nebraska might be protected from the whims of a capricious judge who would order treatment that was too expensive, unneeded, or in other ways did not fit the best interest of the juvenile. Remember what we're trying to do is to provide four people who are assigned as wards of the court and to assure to them some of the same protections that some of the rest of us enjoy. The consensus of opinion then was the development of what is called a juvenile review panel. And, if you have 182 in front of you, the first sections of that detail the establishment of this particular panel. This panel, with the adoption of the committee amendment, would only be put in place in instances where there were disputed plans for one individual juvenile. The juvenile review panel would consist of three county or juvenile court judges that are appointed to this panel by the Supreme Court. Any judge at that level is eligible to serve on the panel, except the judge who originally heard the case. Another thing that is a little bit different than today, the juvenile review panel may hear the case in the county where the case was originally cited, which would bring justice out to Nebraska where currently decisions and the people involved may have to travel to a remote location even to be present. In the interest of cost-effectiveness, the juvenile review panel will use existing courtroom office facilities and staff. About the only cost connected with this review panel is the extra cost, is the cost for travel and per diem for the judges. The juvenile review panel will review the disposition of a court when that court makes a decision different from the plan that is ordered by the Department of Social Services or probation officer. If the Department of Social Services or probation officer decides that they do not like, they disagree with the court plan, they have 10 days, after the court order, to file a request for a review. The review panel will review the disposition of a court de novo on the record. Their options, if they're given clear and convincing evidence that the disposition was not in the best