

SENATOR CHIZEK: Just simply to ask the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall the committee amendments to LB 603 be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill, Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: (Microphone not on) ...to talk about 603 as it is amended. What it does, it provides the State Foster Review Board, the State Foster Review Board, not the individual local boards, that it has standing or legal authority to appear in courts while pleadings or motions can be granted relief consistent with the juvenile court in any proceedings involving a juvenile in foster care placement. The second part of it, in depth it defines what constitutes a foster replacement and expands it to include status offenders which are normally or we would know it in common language, layman's language as truants. It authorizes the state board to contract for services as well to employ individuals to hire private counsel as well as hiring staff attorneys. Requires the state board, and I think this is maybe the most important part, to adopt rules and regulations to specify the manners in which the board would determine the appropriate cases in which to enter an appearance in the court. And, as in the A bill, which will come, there is only...they're only asking for \$30,000 to hire attorneys which is not very much. The second part...the fourth part, Section 4, requires the...the fifth part, excuse me, gives the State Board...Foster Review Care Board the authority to exercise jurisdiction granted in Section 1 of the bill when it is determined that the interests of the child would be served by making appearance in the court on the child's behalf. And Section 6 provides that the State Foster Review Board shall be informed of judicial proceedings when they are involved in a child's foster care placement. I think it's an excellent bill. I think it expands, I think, the Foster Review Board from...maybe some of the state senators who have had a closer contact maybe through their wives working on local foster review boards know more about it than I do but I think it's simply a good oversight involving lay people. And I think the bill...the act has been in place in this state since 1982 and it seems to be working and this, I