

it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. (See pages 1871-73 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, this is an amendment found on page 1851 of the Journal. I have discussed it briefly with Senator Pirsch and Senator Chizek. It is an attempt to provide for in the bill provisions of another bill that was heard by Judiciary Committee dealing with an issue brought to me by the Department of Social Services. The department has had some difficulty with a few schools in the state to be able to go onto the school grounds and visit with children suspected of being victims of abuse. Under these circumstances, it is primarily a situation where parental abuse is suspected and the need to talk to the child outside of the home is in the best interest of that child. This amendment had a hearing and there was some confusion about support or opposition to it. It does provide for a concern expressed by the school board, School Board Association, in terms of any liability exposure they might have. I don't think there is any, but it does provide for liability protection to anyone who does provide access to that child under this provision. In checking with Paul O'Hara and the trial attorneys, I don't believe that that has any problem with them, and so the liability issue, hopefully, isn't a problem. With that, the school boards should be favorable. Again, this amendment was brought to me by the Department of Social Services. It is the only bill they asked to be introduced this year and it does try and address the problem that we have in certain circumstances with dealing with child abuse under circumstances where the parents may be involved, trying to separate that out, and allow that discussion to occur in the schools, and what we are trying to accomplish, most of the schools are cooperative and there is no problem with them, but in a few instances, we have had a problem. This would deal with that problem and I would ask for adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, I, respectfully, ask for germaneness to LB 330.