

that in those 1 to 5 percent of the instances of conflict that we will now have a system to resolve it in a positive fashion. I had been concerned about the cost involved with the judges involved and we still don't know exactly what the A bill will be on this, but they assure me that there are a few of them that are causing the exceedingly expensive placements that are also inappropriate and that they hope with the review panel they'll have a chance to level that out and not have those problems. They also assured me that with the review panel of three judges, that they will be independent minded and selected not so much as a club atmosphere where everything one judge wants is what the panel will go with, but that the judges will try to maintain some independence and review will be indeed impartial. You know, my concern was that judges reviewing a judge versus a department decision would lean toward the judge. I hope that's not the case, but they assure me that it isn't and so I guess we'll see how it functions. The changes here on the costs, going through these, the first change on the cost I think help dramatically with the concern about trying to make sure that the department has a chance to negotiate the best price for the services needed. The level of review from clear and convincing to preponderance of evidence at least gives the appearance of a level playing field and that's helpful. The decision that the department plan goes forward until the review panel takes action is helpful so you don't have the back and forth changing of plans all the time. That's good. The elimination of the juvenile offenders from the department responsibility will save at least \$10 million out of the bill. I think that's good, although we do need to study that issue further. The emergency placement decision and then contacting of the judges will help so that we don't have the problem of needing to get ahold of a judge when an emergency problem exists and not being able to contact one and hopefully we'll be able to get children in those vulnerable situations dealt with...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...quickly and then we can go back to the courts to get their review. There are other things that we talked about that aren't in the amendment that we'll have to study. One of those is the authority of a court, as they contend they wish to place a child under a state status if they don't like the situation, would still continue under the statutes to be able to pull the child out of the state and put them under county supervision. We talked about eliminating that