

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to introduce this bill, the Foster Care Review bill. This is kind of a time...I'm going around again with an issue, I think it's a good issue that we need to address within the state. I think a handout has been provided to you dealing with the different sections of LB 1222. Section 1 provides express statutory authority for the State Foster Care Review to access child protective services records on children in foster care placement. Section 2, and Section 3 were deleted by the committee amendments. Section 4 provides that the State Foster Care Review Board may participate in proceedings concerning juvenile and foster care placement, as provided in Section 11 of this bill. Also, in Section 4 provides that written findings or recommendation of State Foster Care Review are admissible in juvenile court proceedings involving a juvenile in foster care placement. Also, this section provides members of the state and local boards and their agents and employees participating in the...in an investigation of juveniles limited immunity from civil liability for other than maliciously false statements. Section 5 redefines the term "foster care placement" in the Foster Care Review Act to include children that are status offenders in foster care. Section 6 provides authority for the State Foster Care Review Board to contract for services as well as to employ people. Section 7 requires that the State Foster Care Review Board adopt rules and regulations to determine the appropriateness of requesting a review hearing. Section 8 provides an early review of children in foster care placement by eliminating the requirement that review be scheduled once every six months after the first six months of foster care review. Section 8 also requires that reports to the court include a finding as to whether there is a need for continued out-of-home placement, and whether the current placement is appropriate; provides basic statutory authority to the Foster Review Board. Section 9 provides the child...the right of the state board to require records regarding the child in foster care for any public official or employees of political subdivisions, such as schools. Section 10 provides that violation of rules and regulations of the State Foster Review Board and confidentiality requirement will constitute a Class III misdemeanor. And the key provision is number 11, provides that courts review of dispositional orders of a court regarding a child in foster care be made at least once every six months, instead of once a year. It requires that the review hearing in the foster care review case be made on record. Recommends that shall