

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 425 was introduced by Senator Labedz and a number of members. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 18. It was referred to Judiciary Committee. They reported the bill directly to General File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce LB 425 to the members of the Legislature, and I almost feel a little guilty but still very strong, because in 1989, we had seven days of debate, and in 1990, because it was more towards the end of the session, there was four full days of debate in 1990. Over the four-day weekend, I took home approximately 500, or a little under 500, pages of debate that I read through that took me hours to do so, and it was a long strenuous time for each and every one of us. And I am very pleased that we do have as many co-sponsors on LB 425 as we did last year on 769. I will try to explain as quickly as possible, and most of you that were here in '89-90 know what LB 425 is all about. It is similar to LB 769, and it requires that a written notification be given by the physician or an agent to a parent or guardian of an unmarried pregnant minor before the girl has an abortion. Notice must be given at least 48 hours prior to the performance of the abortion, and it is patterned after the Minnesota parental involvement law which was found to be constitutional by the United States Supreme Court. As I said, it is similar to 769, and there are three separate but related interests which support a general standard of parental notice; number one, the interest in the welfare of pregnant minors, and, number two, interest in the rights and legitimate role of the parents, and, number three, which I think is probably most important of all, the interest in the family unit. The process of family discussion and decision-making is advanced by this bill, which requires that an adolescent pause for a brief time and, eventually, with the consultation with a parent, we, and I cannot guarantee an outcome, but we can establish a standard which acknowledges the inability of many minors to make a critical decision in an informed mature manner, as well as the interest of knowing. It is common knowledge that parents are not going to react differently to the...that they are going to react differently to the news that their daughter is pregnant. There is no doubt in my mind that there will be differences of opinion, and in some times, shock, embarrassment. It has happened in my family. When you have 81 nieces and nephews and