

January 17, 1992 LB 823

committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. I'll recognize Senator Lynch for opening.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, first of all I appreciate the opportunity to have this bill considered on this early date in the second half of the session. It's an important piece of legislation that simply clarifies a process for adoption that will make it, we know and hope, not just hope that it will, but know and hope that it will make it a better process for not just the kids involved in the adoption but the good folks that, in fact, adopt these children. I have an amendment, Mr. Clerk, and rather than go into the bill right now, I'll explain the amendment which becomes the bill to the committee amendments done with the cooperation and approval of the committee and also the coinstructors and I'll explain it at that time.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lynch would move to amend. The amendment may be found on page 340 of the Journal. (Re: AM2424.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Madam President and members, again, to explain this amendment which, in fact, becomes the bill, it does some things that are necessary technically. For example, the amendment changes the dates, operative dates of the bill from '92 to '93 because this is a carryover bill. It also inserts the term "postplacement". The reason for that is so that we do not complicate a family, for example, that already has a child in place and, in fact, foster parents, for example, who decide to adopt that child. This would allow that child to stay in the home and a law that would require a preplacement study than would be heard. What this change provides is in the case of the foster parent already having the child, that study could take place in the home and post after the placement of the child. It also requires a law enforcement check to make sure that whoever is involved on the adopting side has not been involved with any child abuse or neglect or behavior that could be injurious to the children and, by the way, this would also include where stepparents are involved. Timing is the most thing that it changes. At the present time the study takes place after, in almost every case, after the adoption. So simply puts in place