

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate and I'll recognize Senator Landis for closing.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Senator Ashford has indicated that although I think he wants to go back through this and continue to refine the concepts, have a chance to look at those concepts between now and Select File, the basic of the desire to harmonize the Parenting Act to last year's mediation act is a sensible one. The use of telephonic communications in a rural setting is probably an appropriate one. The use of a trained staff that will help us screen the appropriateness of cases for mediation is a wise idea. The desire to indicate the particular kind of family law and mediation training for these kinds of mediators is a good concept and to make clear that we have very understandable rules on conflict of interest and how those will be treated makes sense, and so since we agree on that, I would urge adoption of this amendment, realizing that proponents of the measure may wish to go back and take a look at the exact language and how it would apply by Select File. I would urge the adoption of the amendment at this time and let us get on to the major issue confronting us on 728.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. We will now vote on this portion of the Landis amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 24 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the first portion of Senator Landis's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: This portion of the amendment to the amendments are adopted. Senator Landis, would you proceed with the second portion.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Through Senator Ashford's desire to have the question divided, we now have sort of a rifle shot at a very significant issue and that significant issue is how and in what way is this mediation process going to begin? Is it going to begin when one party calls up, asks for mediation, the second party is called and then they are required to go and visit a mediator, or is it going to come about through communication from a staff from those kinds of calls, and both parties agreeing to come to a mediation meeting? Is this system going to be voluntary or is this system going to be, at least in its