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LB 728

be interested in how much additional cost is involved here to the parties because certainly we're increasing the price of divorces, but maybe it's a worthwhile cost if the best interests of the child, of the children are promoted in fact. I would also be interested in whether, in places where these plans have been in effect, there are fewer modifications of divorces requested, fewer disputes in the long run. I guess I'm interested in this 79 percent figure and what that means and how that compares to a control group. I know that information is hard to compile, but if you had any information like that, it would help me feel more assured that perhaps this does work when I feel...when my gut reaction is...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..that, unless there's consent by both parties, it is not likely to really work. So I would invite you to respond to those. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I want to ask Senator Ashford a question. Senator Ashford, let's say that the bill were to be enacted as it is written now where one party can ask for this mediation, then the other party must attend. Isn't that true based on the way the bill is written now?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now suppose that other party does not show up? How do you enforce this?

SENATOR ASHFORD: You would enforce it by going to the court and getting an order ordering them to appear.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if the person still didn't appear, that person could be cited for contempt.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Sure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So this creates an additional cause for court action which doesn't exist without this bill, isn't that true?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Sure.