

and then went to the court-ordered mediation. I think, hopefully I think that is what we are going to get here. The experience hopefully will show that this process saves money; it encourages settlement; it provides a mechanism whereby individuals can deal effectively with the problems of custody in a way that will encourage parties to work together. It also provides for...the bill also provides a mechanism for mediation after a divorce decree has been entered, which I think is a significant step. The bill allows for a free introductory mediation through the mediation process which was in the Landis amendment, and I think that is a significant benefit to the bill. It requires that upon the filing of a divorce decree that information on the mediation process be provided to the individual parties to the dispute, and that is significant. It outlines for these parties what they can and can't do under the mediation process, and hopefully will alert them to inquire of their attorneys and the court what opportunities are available in the area of mediation. I am hopeful that though this process if voluntary that many litigants will avail themselves of it, and that the courts will encourage the parties to avail themselves of this process. Lastly, Senator Bohlke did an excellent job yesterday of discussing the issue of abuse, and we have discussed that yesterday. There have been some amendments adopted dealing with the abuse issue. The way the bill stands now the mediator must still, as any person must under...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...Nebraska law, inform authorities if there is evidence of child abuse. I don't see any particular reason to change that particular provision. But be that as it may, if abuse is an issue, mediation can be cut off at any time. Certainly now that it is voluntary, if there is abuse with the parties or involved, if abuse is involved in the case, then in most cases mediation wouldn't occur at all in the first place anyway. With all of that, Madam President, I would simply move that the bill be advanced to E & R Initial. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I will remind the senators the house is under call. We are still awaiting for Senator Robak. Do you wish to proceed. We will go ahead and vote now on the motion to advance LB 728. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.