

department, this seems to be a good idea. But a question for Senator Day. As far as having it go to the referee in the court, will this overburden our referees? Are we going to have to add some referees or maybe specifically certain areas referees that deal only with this issue? Because I could imagine there would be...I'm not sure of the numbers, how many go to court in order...when they have a problem with visitation rights, so, Senator Day, on the question of number of referees we may need to add?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Day.

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Madam President and members, I have visited with the child support referees and they do not feel that this will be an added burden. Their belief is there are not that many out there that are problems. We hear about them as legislators, and I think a lot of times we read about some of the more dramatic cases. The only one that had a little concern about that was the referee from Lancaster County. And, yes, it's possible as we proceed with this we may have to hire another referee. I have an amendment coming up that's putting some more onto the referees, so there may be an addition. We're trying to do it slowly so we can see how it's handled and how many will need to be added. For your information, probably to add a child referee is going to cost the state about \$50,000 a year, somewhere in that area. Currently, part of that is federal money that pays them because they deal with IV-D cases. When they start dealing with visitation interference, that is not a IV-D service, so there will be no federal money for that. Again, that's part of the reason we're putting this off until January of '97, so we can work out that detail on how that will be done. But I will tell you right now the child support referees are not real concerned about being overburdened with this.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Day, every county has a child support referee?

SENATOR DAY: Douglas County, I believe, has two; Lancaster County has one; and then there is one that takes care of the rest of the state.

SENATOR BOHLKE: That travels the rest of the counties. Well, as I said, I certainly support this. As we talk about the expanded responsibilities of referees, we may continue the