

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. This...I'm passing out an explanation of AM1608. The amendment is fairly extensive so I've got copies here on my desk for anybody that wants the amendment itself, but, otherwise, the explanation is in front of you. And it's more...it's a policy decision anyway in what we're doing or what's being suggested. And that is that what this...what AM1608 would do is to return the enforcement side of child support back to the referee system that was created in the Day amendment a little bit earlier. And that is that it puts...it's puts...the collection of support would be also determined through that same referee system. That is that to the extent that that is administrative, support would be handled administratively. To the extent that it's judicial, support would be handled judicially. Again, it tries to move visitation and support to somewhat of an even keel but allows...still allows that same speed with which things can be done that Senator Day was mentioning in discussing her amendment, allows that same efficiency to be handled or to be allowed to both support and visitation. The bottom line is if we...the policy decision is, do we or do we not want those two to be handled in that manner. If there was some concern about subjective decisions being made in an administrative setting, then this handles that concern. By moving the support over to that same...I guess for lack of a better term, quasi judicial setting, the referee system that's been talked about, there are...it's indicated that there...it's been indicated that support is objective rather than subjective, and that simply is not the case. There are a lot of calls that have to be made, subjective types of calls that have to be made in these...in the hearings that we already have. And I should mention we do have administrative hearings that take place every day at DSS, and that's what the thrust is, it moves those hearings over, back over to the referee system. The subjective types of calls that are made in those situations are things like someone has paid support, but has paid it directly to the...to a wife or a husband, the custodial parent. And the custodial parent then, on an occasional basis, three or four months, might file that receipt with the court and that would then clear up the support. But rather than doing it every month, filing that receipt every month and having it notarized and all of that, they do it on every three, four, five months as they get along. And it's...those types of disputes will arise when the parties are in an amicable relationship, where the parties are getting along and they pay support directly because it knocks off a couple of