

hammer, really help for the noncustodial parents. But the question I wanted to ask you is in your opinion, and I agree I believe with your opinion, that the cost of the custodial parents or that which the custodial parent had to do to get visitation rights enforced, that burden is still going to be there even with or without this referee.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I believe the financial burden will still be there.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, and the reason that would be is because even though the referee may make a recommendation, those that would oppose that recommendation would still be in court and you'd have to have an attorney there to do all the defense, to lay all the arguments in front of the district court.

SENATOR LINDSAY: You wouldn't have to have an attorney any more than you have to have an attorney now. If you understand the process, if you know how to make your way through it, you would not have to have an attorney. There's no requirement of that. But as is the case now, it's difficult to make your way through that maze of the judicial process without one, fortunately, for my profession.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. Thank you. Senator Lindsay, then, with the committee amendments that we now have adopted which are in essence the bill, in your judgment what have we done on the positive side, if anything, for helping out noncustodial parents on the side of visitation?

SENATOR LINDSAY: We may have, I believe with the filing of an affidavit, we may have made the initial commencement of the action easier, but other than that, I think once there is a resistance filed I think, or some type of resistance made, I think at that point, nothing. We may have, depending on how the referee system works, we may have increased the cost, but more than likely I just don't think a great deal of difference.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, thank you, Senator Lindsay. And I do rise in support of the Chambers amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature,