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LB 642

They have a list of volunteer citizens waiting to serve on a board, the problem is it hasn't been funded to do it to provide that. They do have volunteers out there. We would need potentially for this an additional 200 volunteers. The people are out there willing to get involved and do it. So it's a process...this needs to be done. In terms of the transfer of employees, five, ten...five each year or ten total I believe are needed to make sure the duties are carried out adequately and as required by federal law and state law. In order that we have all the children reviewed, DSS is reviewing, as was mentioned, about 60 percent of the cases.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR AVERY: These cases are the ones that are just in DSS custody, they're not all of the children. So we should be important and concerned. Now you've got to remember and look at the whole process. There's children in the system and out of the system very quickly. And there is not...I'm sure that DSS, Foster Care doesn't even catch those that come in that quick and out. So we need an opportunity to improve our system and make sure we have quality reviews, and I believe this, truly believe this bill is the mechanism to do that. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise kind of indifferent, I guess, to the Hall amendment at this point because I don't think Senator Hall has gotten the information that he was hoping to get by offering the amendment. Actually, Senator Hillman I think had probably some of the most revealing information about why we should not be doing this particular piece of legislation at this time. And it has more to do with the financial side and what the A bill would more likely be. And I concur with Senator Hillman that the A bill is going to be far, far greater than just the transfer of the potential replacement. Senator Chambers asked me a question during his last discussion and I wanted to answer that. His question was if I recall the question correctly, did he understand me to say that, if the eleven employees shifted from Social Services to the Foster Care Review Board that the eleven would have to be replaced? And my answer to that is not necessarily but probably. And the reason I say that out of experience is that knowing how understaffed the Department of Social Services are or is, there are things that they would