

be starting with the last division first and then we'll be going in order starting from the first division on down through number eight. And with that, Senator Wehrbein, it's my understanding that is your portion of the amendment. I will recognize you to open on the last division.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I'm trying to decide, Mr. Speaker and members, this wording, I'm trying to find it. What amendment was this drafted to, Senator Bohlke, could you answer so I could have them find this in the...I was going to try to clarify where we were at just a little more. Was it addressed to AM7123? Is that...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, I can't...I think my amendment is up on the Clerk's desk.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Does that sound right? Well if it's 7123, that is page 22 that I have on mine. The wording I'm talking about is, I'm going to read the whole thing so you understand. In determining the rate of reimbursement for child care the Department of Social Services shall conduct a market rate survey of the child care providers in the state, period. The wording goes on to say, the department shall adjust the reimbursement rate for child care every second year beginning July 1, 1997 based on the results of the study. My problem with this last sentence, the wording, that every year beginning July 1 based on the results of the study, that we have to adjust the reimbursement rate is too much of a mandatory increase. And my amendment says that we will change this to strike "based through study", in other words, the last few words of that last sentence and insert "up to an amount not to exceed the seventy-fifth percentile of the market rate survey", which essentially says we don't have to give the money mandated in the study but simply to say up to the seventy-fifth percentile of that study we could give. It still gives us some flexibility depending on the market survey, depending on money available, we will have some flexibility in determining how much to pay in this particular section. I'm very leery, especially after going through the budget process, of the mandates we have in there. I believe this allows us to have some adjustment factor in that if we need it. It still probably in most cases will allow for an increase if it's necessary or needed in terms of the economy, but it doesn't mandate that. And so once again my amendment will say up to an amount not to exceed the seventy-fifth percentile of the market rate survey instead of mandating that we have to do