

SENATOR AVERY: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: First of all I suppose I could start out by pulling up my speech yesterday and criticizing you for bringing this down at this late date, but I won't. The issue that I think we're dealing with has me some troubling because it's somewhat changed from what we originally had talked about when this bill was first introduced. And the questions that I have is, first of all, I want to get a clearer understanding. From what I understand is, we're going to take people from the Department of Social Services and put them over as a sort of the body of the Foster, State Foster Care Review Board, is that correct?

SENATOR AVERY: It will take the positions, the FTEs. It isn't, we're not transferring bodies, you know, people, per se. We're transferring position or FTEs.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. What happens to all those who are now in the foster care process who have been volunteering their time and looking at these cases that have been brought to them, that are, obviously have been some problems? What happens to those, to that system?

SENATOR AVERY: That system continues. There is nothing changed. The FTEs that are transferred will allow additional boards to be developed so we can review children that are still slipping through the system. Right now they review 60 percent. So there's 40 percent of the children out there that aren't getting reviews. And this will allow additional review boards to be created. These FTEs will be positions of review specialists that will work with an individual board in Omaha and in North Platte to make sure that we review, try to review all of the children. And hope...and the plans are that as of January 1998 that this review process will include all of the children that are served by DSS and hopefully as well additional children that are outside DSS's jurisdiction, be it juvenile detention, other wards that they are spot reviewing at present time, but it'll allow additional.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, let me, let me get down to the crux of the thing and I guess the thing now, you're talking about a pilot project in a couple of areas, right?