

January 24, 1996 LB 642

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, yes, I had my light on before the amendment came out so I want to mention that I do wholeheartedly support the bill. I see that...I believe that the foster care is the topnotch that we could get for our children who need this kind of care in this state. It's far better than the other. But we also need something that's going to review them. And I've met with people over the interim in the, and since the Legislature has been in session this year, on the Foster Care Review Boards, they do an excellent job. We need to have them. The bill...and I don't believe that we should look at a code agency at all because we, we turn it into a political thing. As the amendment is written, I support it. I see that it would be fine, I have no problem at all with having some kind of accountability and I think the review, the review would be that kind of accountability that I could support. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a problem with a review process. I guess some of the conservatism comes out. I think we have to realize, though, that when you get consultant in you are going to potentially have a cost anywhere from zero to a hundred thousand. And, I'm not sure what that will be and the type of review. I know that some type of review needs to be done and maybe we need to consider that. But where I do have some of the concerns is on...by putting this in, we won't have any type of potential cost and I think Senator Schimek or Senator Wesely, if they have any ideas, I would ask them, in terms of potentially what they believe this would cost. Senator Schimek, would you answer a question?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Certainly.

SENATOR AVERY: From past experience or anything, do you have any idea what it would cost to go with a consultant like you have?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Avery, I don't have a lot of experience in this area but the counsel for Health and Human Services Committee suggested that most of these could be done for around \$10,000 probably.