

January 24, 1996 LB 642

SENATOR AVERY: This language comes from the Department of Social Services. They are concerned that to the capacity that the state board has to make sure there is some responsibility for those reviews. This is their language that we...that they have given us to address that the board has some fiscal responsibility in doing this.

SENATOR SCHIMEX: But what does that mean in real life terms?

SENATOR AVERY: In real life terms there has...I don't believe there has ever been, well, there has been a sanction...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. I'm sorry, Senator. Senator Vrtiska, your light is next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Hillman, may I ask you a question please?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Apparently what you indicated in this amendment is to make this a code agency and I guess my question is, do you, in your honest opinion, think that being a code agency is going to make the foster care review people any more responsible or any more effective than they are now?

SENATOR HILLMAN: I guess one of the things for me, it is an overall kind of a principle or premises is that I look at some of the issues that have come up in the past, Senator Vrtiska, when it comes to having commissions and boards and some of the difficulties that we have. And I think in this case where we are looking at a complete change in the system that in the past has been fairly highly regulated and that we know where...have some control over the director and what their plans in working and looking at the total system, one of the things that happens with a code agency that I think that helps is they need to look at each other and there is...and where that total plan for anything that deals with a particular area and in this area we are looking at foster care, as a code agency they need to look at the surrounding agencies and what that means, how they use them and to have some central direction. I think in the future you are going to see what I call, there are a lot of terms,