

January 25, 1996 LB 642

about this, this whole procedure is that if you're not going to have an evaluation, and if you're not going to be able to have a period in which you can change the implementation process if necessary, then what's the purpose of having the project in the first place? You might as well just go to statewide implementation right now. If you're not going to have a pilot project which then you have time to evaluate, I don't...and then you implement right away, regardless, there's no point in it, we just as well go statewide right now. So I think this is a good amendment. I think it does what I wanted to see accomplished and I will be supporting it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I would like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a couple of questions if I may, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Senator, how do you envision the budget process working under this particular time level? We'll be looking at the second half of a budget year, is that correct?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct.

SENATOR HILLMAN: So we could look at the new budget coming out that we'd be looking at the funding of the Foster Care Review Board with the pilot projects the first year of the budget. Then the second year, not knowing what was going to be happening because of this, do you see an A bill then coming out in the middle, a deficit fund? How do you envision the second year of funding taking place?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Hillman, I envision it as I envision, I'm trying to get the vision coming. What would happen in my judgment, without giving it a lot of thought here prior, is that if the Legislature passes that on July of '98, it shall be. Then that would be indicated in the outgoing, outlying years on the Appropriations Committee because we will have said there will be a transfer of four positions, it will become statewide, and so it would appear, in the base, if you wish, of foster care as being an addition in July of '98 because