

amendments. She waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 645. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 645. Have you all voted? We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 645. Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: The committee amendments are adopted. Now the bill. Senator Abboud, would you like to open on the bill.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Madam President, colleagues, the registration of sex offenders have gone through different periods as far as when states have adopted this type of legislation. The earliest law for the registration of sex offenders was back in 1944. And in the period from 1944 through 1967, there was a period of relatively light activity as far as states enacting this type of legislation. In the period from 1985 through 1990, there was again pretty light activity, but more states did adopt it. Finally, in the area, time period between 1991 and '94, there was an intense amount of legislation enacted. Nineteen ninety-four saw the addition of 16 states adopting the registration of sex offenders. And this came about as a result of a situation in New Jersey where a young girl was kidnapped, and New Jersey enacted a piece of legislation referred to as Megan's Law. And that's where a lot of the publicity focused in on the continuing work of the parents involved in trying to enact the registration of sex offenders. As I said, back in '44 California enacted the first law. And since then the states have enacted it to the point where all but three states in this nation, Nebraska, Vermont, and Massachusetts, have not enacted the law. So 47 states do have registration of sex offenders. In addition, because so many states had adopted it and as a result of this push with Megan's Law in New Jersey, this registration of sex offenders was made a part of the federal crime bill and there was a requirement that states adopt it or lose federal funding. And that provided a further impetus towards the passage of registration of sex offenders. Now, in regard to legal challenges on this, because it has had such a long history of being on the books, there have been a number of court challenges on this issue, in four states in particular. There have been court cases in Arizona, Illinois, and in Washington. And the courts have ruled that there was no violation as the form of, as a form of punishment, and therefore