

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Under current federal law the states are required to review child support guidelines every four years. Right now that authority is vested in the Supreme Court. During the past year, when the Supreme Court did its review, there was a lot of concern about how the guidelines were formulated, primarily concern about a lack of input. The guidelines themselves are, I believe, are a political issue which is more appropriately determined over in this branch of government. On a case-by-case basis the court, in awarding support, can deviate from those guidelines, but the basic guidelines themselves ought to be in a body where input can be gathered from the public. The Supreme Court simply is not equipped very well to do that. What LB 1316 would do is to move that authority for making or for setting the guidelines from the Supreme Court and moving it to the legislative branch. The way it would work is that 90 days prior to each...every four years, the legislative session that would follow, the LRD, Legislative Research Division, would go through the process of gaining public input, of doing the research with economists and looking at other states and those kinds of things that currently the Supreme Court does, would then report that to the Judiciary Committee, of which I will not be Chair. The committee will then review those, hold public hearings where the public can come in and give input on that, where they have an outlet for their concerns. The committee then can accept, reject, modify, do whatever the committee wants to do and then forwards that to the Legislature, where the Legislature can do whatever it desires to do. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions. I know Senator Coordsen had some about the procedure on that. I guess for that purpose I would yield the balance of my opening to Senator Coordsen for those questions.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I did have some questions from the perspective of the Exec Board and having oversight over what the workload of the Legislative Research Division is. First of all, Senator, do you feel that the Legislative Research Division has the expertise in house or has access to carry out the mission that would be established in LB 1316?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Currently, the Supreme Court, what they did