

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

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record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Beutler' amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is agreed to. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler, AM1329. (See page 1531 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on AM1329.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment says flat out and very simply that the collection and disbursement of support order payments under the bill shall not be conducted by private entities. I don't have strong feelings one way or another about it, but I know a lot of you may have strong feelings about it. I know there's been a lot of bad feelings about the private entity who handled the Colorado support system and, in light of the support, for example, for the clerk's of the district court, I'm...I suspect that there is a preference in this body for keeping it in a government entity, whether it be clerks of the district court or a state agency of some type. So this amendment would not say what type of state agency there should be or whether you wanted to...it wouldn't say anything except you shall not use private entities. And so, as I indicated, I don't have strong feelings one way or another. My preference would be that it would not be a private entity. I would feel safer and more comfortable with that. But at least it's a dividing line in this kind of decision and so I wanted to afford everyone the opportunity of deciding one way or another whether you wanted to make that distinction. So you can leave it wide open as the bill is now and leave it up to DHH to decide who they wanted to contract with, how they wanted to set it up, whether it would be private or whether it would be a public entity, or you can adopt this amendment. Then they couldn't...they would not have the option of privates, but they would have continuing options on the public side as to exactly how it was done. So that's what this amendment puts to you.