

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

January 21, 2000 LB 482

available to children with those type of needs.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Senator Matzke, my concern was not necessarily the dollar amounts. My concern was the information that would be supplied to the adoptive parents as to the nature of the conditions; that they would have some information ahead of time to know exactly what they were...what they were getting into on the adoption. It's just a matter for their awareness.

SENATOR MATZKE: Yes, I...I remember your bill and I think your bill addressed that problem, didn't it? Didn't it require disclosure of medical conditions?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, in a way it did, but I was just wondering what the department has done in that respect or what is available now to do that.

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, I...I am rather generally aware that that problem is part of their responsibility and is addressed. I was advised today, when we were discussing this, that the department will not even place one of these children for adoption until their medical situation is carefully analyzed and provisions made for that and, of course, that would obviously include planning with the adoptive children. As most of you know, it takes six months to gain approval of a...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...adoption, but in situations like this they often will have a child in foster care for considerably longer than that until they can find the right parents, right adoptive parents and the right solution to the medical problems so that those needs can be addressed.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Matzke, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 482.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe the statistics that I've handed out show the need for this type of program. We currently have 536 children who are state wards who are available for adoption and whose placement has been