

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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I think you have all the handouts and you understand that the courts are to look at this and try to get...to go to joint custody when there are children, small children involved. So, Senator Brashear, would you like a little time on the amendment?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brashear, likewise, would you like to provide a brief recap of the committee amendment? (AM0173, Legislative Journal page 859, First Session, 1999.)

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, thank you, Senator Crosby. The committee amendment, if you look at the green copy, you can read the green copy and not worry about the committee amendments. I would like to talk about the practical function. The green copy is the green copy; we're not amending the green copy. We're going into another portion of the statutes that relates to the Parenting Act and we are making the parent...the provisions of the Parenting Act conform to and interrelate to the green copy, the provisions of the green copy. Specifically, the parenting plan, which is developed under the Parenting Act, would require...the committee amendment would require that the parenting plan, as approved by the court, in establishing visitation, consider each parent's work schedule, so that each parent can spend quality time with the minor child. In addition, consideration would be given, would be required to be given to equalizing the visitation time for the noncustodial parent with the time spent with the custodial parent. The same language requiring that with the condition that the best interest of the child always be considered, and that could be overriding, incidentally, the same language is inserted as to the duty of the court when determining the custody arrangement. So we are conforming the Parenting Act to the green copy of LB 120. That's the committee amendment; thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. For discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 120, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I told Senator Tyson, "Baron" Tyson, that is, that I was going to begin by reading from the Scripture, then launch into a sermon. His first reaction was, well, he thought I didn't believe in God and my reading from the Scripture seemed unusual to him. And he