

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

January 25, 2000 LB 120

tell you what I'm going to do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm going to put on my light and finish my thoughts.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. We're discussing the Chambers amendment. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, I'd yield several minutes of my time to Senator Landis, to finish his thoughts.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay, I'll only take a couple and I'll give you back your time, Kermit. I'm going to vote for this particular Chambers amendment. I believe Senator Chambers has the demise of LB 120 in mind. I'm not going to participate on that level at this time. I'll tell you there's some pieces in here I want to encourage. I want to encourage the idea that child visitations awfully aren't that important and gets the short shrift today in our legal system. And this bill says child visitation is important and I agree with that. I want to think about the ways I can be helpful on that. Second thing that's in this bill, it says, look, if you can create mechanisms for parents to create a plan, no matter what the name of that plan, that's a good idea, and I want to be helpful on that score. That's something that is in the bill that I want to help. What I don't want to do is to create a presumption that joint custody is right, because I think there are areas where it's not right and I don't want to create that presumption. I don't want to mandate or I don't want to tip the scales in favor of joint custody when I think it's probably not the right area. And let me tell you three areas where I think that is--I think it's in children of very tender years, I think it's in the presence of domestic abuse, and I think it's in areas of high emotional conflict. I don't think joint custody makes sense there, so I'm going to vote for the Chambers amendment. At the time in which Ernie gets done pummeling the committee amendments, I'm going to vote for the committee amendments because I think they raise the issue of child visitation. I'm going to vote for a bunch of