

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

January 27, 2000 LB 120

needs to take place now. I very much agreed with Senator Landis and the points he was making. I asked him when, in his final statement on supporting perhaps the original green copy of Senator Crosby's bill, that brings us full circle back to another entire...what I see as an entirely different point. I'm not sure that here on the floor, with meetings and groups and lawyers and attorneys trying to come up with something that's going to make this be in better shape and move it onto Select File is the best course. In fact, right now I'm inclined to disagree with that. I do believe that...I asked Senator Kristensen...in Buffalo County we have a model that seems to work. In Buffalo County we have a Child Custody Officer. That Child Custody Officer makes a recommendation to the judge. The Child Custody Officer is not an attorney. The Child Custody Officer, Senator Kristensen thought, he thought the woman had a background in educational psychology. When we're talking about what's best for the child, we all realize this is a very, very serious discussion and situation. I'm not willing to just turn it over to the courts and let them decide what's best for the child. I don't think they have any more expertise than the people here. I do believe that we need some mechanism to step in when adults are behaving badly and say, you adults will start behaving. The Child Custody Officer seems to function in that way in Buffalo County. I don't know why we haven't had other counties follow that model. That Child Custody Officer calls the two parents in and says, this is the deal, you are no longer going to behave this way, and this is the recommendation I'm going to make to the judge. It seems to me that that is one model that's in place. And rather than us scrambling around on General File, trying to fix a bill that seems to have many problems, I would recommend, if the State Bar Association was going to do any kind of a study that Senator Beutler suggested, they might look at a model that's been working for 20 years, and then ask, why don't we use that model? Are there problems with it? To me it seems to make great sense. But I do rise in support of the Chambers amendment...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...and I will probably support other amendments that he brings along. And I certainly do not envision me being able to support the bill moving over to Select File by