

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 9, 2000 LB 652

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. The question is, shall the committee amendments to LB 652 be agreed to? Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 0 ayes, 20 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Committee amendments are not agreed to. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Thompson would move to amend with AM2267. (AM2267, Legislative Journal page 571.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson, recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. Now we're on the blue sheet and it's also on your computer, and essentially what this amendment does is take elements of two proposals last year and seek to advance them. And, Senator Chambers, I don't have an objection to dividing them. I think it...but I do think they go hand in hand and I will explain why I believe that. So the first one deals with a longstanding issue--bills that have been introduced in this Legislature for many years dealing with the problem of county costs for out-of-home placements for youth. This is a relatively new phenomenon in the state and the reason for that has been the inadequacy of the state system. Not all the children who go to Kearney and Geneva are appropriate to that facility, but at this point in time that is the highest level of treatment we have in the state for youth. Our facility master plan, which you, hopefully, if you haven't received a copy of, will have received a copy of, also did an analysis of the profile of the youth in the system and what we should have as a system. Youth are categorized in five categories. Ones, twos, and threes can be served in community settings, and other bills that will come before you, hopefully in the near future, will deal with the importance of those community-based needs. The fourth level is a staff-secure and some time locked parts of secure facility that is what, in our state, is Kearney and