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that portion of the system, the negotiation with the counties. The original bill just wanted to change the word "county" to "state" so when a judge placed that the state would just have to pay the cost. That was not acceptable. That's not what the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Task Force recommended. The state needs to have that ability to make the placements and then pay the bills for appropriate placements as seen by the state, so that decision making will go to the state under this bill. That was the negotiation. That is why the bill is in the shape that it is in today and not exactly how it looked last year and why we need the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Landis, on the Thompson amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: I'll use the Thompson amendment to make the two points that I was going to make and tell you my intentions here. My intention is to, at least at this point, vote for the Thompson amendment and the advancement of LB 652. However, let me tell you of a conversation I had with a juvenile judge and, rather than keep these things mystical and secret, it's my brother-in-law, juvenile judge in Lincoln. We talked about LB 652 and he said, look, this is a state function, the state ought to pay it, and the general direction of this idea is a good one. There are two unintended consequences that are significant. Number one, I've had experience placing kids through the state, and the state is slow, so slow that they spend between two and three months figuring out a way to place a kid in a way that will get it to be a federally funded welfare dollar rather than a state dollar. And the difficulty is that I have a record of people of the state coming through and being as slow as two and three months in placements as they try to run this through their own accounting system to find a way to make it federally funded, and that's two or three months of no services when we're sitting there with a kid in the Attention Center while the state is trying to process papers to figure out where the kid should go, and that's wrong. And you know who's fast and good and quick and does it right off the bat? The counties. Now they shouldn't have to pay for it, but thank heavens they're there because they are good. They do their job well, and the state is slow. It is a state function. Pay for it with state dollars. Let the state do it but, please, Lord,