

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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don't throw me back into the system in which the state takes three months to make a decision and the counties can do this fast. So, if you give this to the state without new state dollars, they're going to cram this all down into the same process that is slowing things down. If you're going to do LB 652, do it with the money to do it. If you're going to cut off these county obligations, make sure there's state money to make up for it so that they can do this thing quickly. Second thing he said was, I know the kids I see very well. I hear all the information. I'm the focal point for the evaluation process and I've learned the system well enough to know where I think the right place for a kid to go. When I deal with kids coming to me from the county, I can...I'm able to say this child should go to "x". When I deal with the state, I say, Office of Juvenile Services, take over. And, frankly, I'm at least as confident in the power of a juvenile judge to make that determination as I am in OJS. If you do this and you move lots of kids through this OJS situation, you will have the absence of the juvenile judge to direct the treatment of the kid because you'll be giving it to OJS. And it would be preferable, from his perspective, to have that with the juvenile judge. Now those two points I want to raise because I think there's structural things we need to think about, but I'm not going to say "no" because I'll tell you why. The underlying movement, which is to move from counties to the state the cost of juvenile justice, is a good idea. We should make progress in Kearney, we should make progress in Geneva, we should make progress here. I'll vote for this bill on General File, but I am concerned that I am putting more pressure on a system which is demonstrably slower than the counties', and turning my back and just hope with crossed fingers that it's going to work better, and that's not good enough. And between here and Select File I hope there's a conversation we can have to make sure that the good goals of this bill get accomplished without the downside risks, which would be unintended consequences,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...could be achieved, and that discussion I would hope to have some time between General File, Select File. Voting for the Thompson amendment, for LB 652, and then hope to have a conversation about the ultimate impact of this bill.