

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

April 4, 2000

LB 972

Brown, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, thank you. When Senator Bourne was listing the counties that would be eligible for this, I realized that I have relatives in almost every one of those counties, and so I will probably make myself very popular by virtue of supporting the Bourne amendment. I do have some concerns about it, but if we...if we are able to handle the technology in the way that I think that we can, I think we can probably get around some of those issues. I do think that...that there's something about face time that's involved in management, and so I do have a little bit of a concern about being so distant from the individuals who are ultimately responsible from a management standpoint, and I think that we have seen, at least in my estimation with some of the problems that we've had with the computer system, that I believe some of those problems are at least partially related to the fact that child support enforcement, the Title IV-D agency that is ultimately responsible to the federal government and to us for child support, is in the Services Division of Health and Human Services, whereas the CHARTS system, the computer system, is in the Finance Division. And so that...I think that bifurcation could be a part of the problems that we have seen, and so I...but that's the only concern that I have with the Bourne amendment, but I certainly believe that the Bourne amendment is very much a direct economic development avenue for rural counties and I believe that it is something that we should...should adopt but monitor and make sure that it is serving us exactly as we want to have it serve us, and that it is furthering what has to be the number one goal, which is that children get their support in a more timely matter and that people feel that they are getting the response from the system, and I believe with automation, we can, and technology, we can make that happen. And so I will support the Bourne amendment with...with the caveat that it is something that we need to continue to monitor and our Health and Human Services Agency needs to monitor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. On the Bourne amendment, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members. I