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LB 1167

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Dwite Pedersen, please.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Wickersham, could you yield for a couple questions?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Wickersham, would you respond to a question, please?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: If I heard you right and if I'm reading this right, does that mean that nobody that is...you have to be an attorney to be appointed as guardian ad litem?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: In all cases?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, in these...yes, as far as I'm aware. This exception in the juvenile cases is quite surprising to me.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I know people who have served as guardian ad litem for some time who are not attorneys, and I think have served well. And this would completely put them...take them out of that realm, is the way I understand it.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: That is correct.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I will not be supporting it. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Chambers, please, to speak to the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, nobody would question but what some laypersons may on occasion have served as a guardian ad litem and have done so...had done so well. But what we're talking about, when a policy decision is made of what is going to happen in all of the cases, not the maybe rare, exceptional case where somebody that Senator Dwite Pedersen knew did a good job. Senator Wickersham really gave