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LB 1069

SENATOR BYARS: I...we haven't addressed the foster parents. It would allow for relatives to make...to transport foster children, but I don't think we've made the arrangements for foster parents. I'm not sure about that, Senator. I'd have to get back to you. And I would get back to you on that between now and Select File.

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, and sir, that really is why I bring this up, because I realize that possibly there's some aspects of this that haven't been considered. Just to provide information, foster parents are provided funding for the first 100 miles that they transport a foster child during the month. They are paid...or, they are reimbursed every month for foster...for the foster child's care. And any mileage in excess of 100 miles, if they keep a log, a register of that, then they're reimbursed for that mileage over the 100 miles. I didn't know if you were aware of this, and thought I would give you this information.

SENATOR BYARS: Well, I appreciate that, Senator. We have members from Health and Human Services working with us on the language in this bill. They didn't raise that as a red flag to be something that we should be afraid of. And possibly it's because, you know, this is still going to be a way for these people to be transported. It would...and I'm not sure whether these folks would have...these kids would have a choice as far as foster parents. But we can work on that and see where that would lead us. And it's possible that's not even taken into consideration on the savings.

SENATOR HOWARD: I appreciate that. In addition, I would also present the issue of safety for the foster child. Years ago, we provided transportation and had a great expense through cab services, and due to concerns about safety and whether background checks were completed on cab drivers, that was discontinued for young children, especially for children under 12. So I would urge you to consider background...the issue of background checks for individuals that would transport foster children. I see an issue that I would be very concerned about.