

the magnitude of the problem. Now what LB 600 does essentially is without changing the structure that is basically in place, it formalizes it in the statutes and gives the referees whose names will be changed to masters considerably more authority than they currently have to collect child support, to collect past due child support. In addition to that, it provides in about 40 pages of the act for an expedited child support collection system, including mandatory withholding from pay checks in cases where payments are more than 30 days delinquent. Now the committee amendments went through the bill and made a number of technical changes. Of the significant changes made by the committee, the committee, number one, postponed the effective date of the act until September 1 of 1986 to give us a chance over the summer to study LB 600 as enacted this year, we hope, and to make any changes next session that might be necessary. By enacting the bill this year, it will give the Department of Social Services and the Court Administrator's Office the time it needs to set up an effective child support collection system statewide. It has been estimated that it will take anywhere from 6 to 18 months in order to get the structure set up. Another thing that the committee amendments do is they require that the Supreme Court appoint a committee to review the act this summer and fall and recommend any changes in LB 600 to the Legislature by December 1st. The third thing the committee amendments do is that they require the Court Administrator to develop and implement a statewide automated record-keeping system for clerks of the district court so we will have a uniform automated system so we can get the actual statistics, we can get some handle on the number of child support cases that are delinquent outside of Lancaster and Douglas County, the names of the individuals who are required to make payments and so forth. So that, basically, is the intent of the committee amendments. I do have here on my desk a summary, a section-by-section summary analysis of the bill and I will ask the Pages to pass that out as well so each of you can have before you what the bill does. It appears to be complicated. It is certainly long, but basically it consists of two parts. The first is a number of sections implementing the expedited child support provisions and, secondly, language authorizing the Supreme Court to establish its master system to also expedite the collection of delinquent child support payments. So with that, Mr. President, I would be pleased to attempt to answer any questions about the committee amendments or the bill