

have items for the record?

CLERK: I do, Madam President, thank you. Enrollment and Review reports LB 68A, LB 178A, LB 377A correctly engrossed. Senator Kristensen would like to print amendments to LB 646; Senator Robak to LB 344. (See pages 1614-19 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend Senator Chambers' amendment, Madam President. (See FA144 found on page 1619 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bernard-Stevens, on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the body. It strikes the 90 days and puts it two weeks, 14 days. And regardless of whether you support the amendment or not, the question is what type of time period. So I would assume that Senator Bromm and others who may not be supportive of the amendment would rather have a lesser time period, and then if they wanted to vote against the amendment, that would be fine, but if the amendment is going to be agreed to, it would be better to have it a shorter time frame than 90 days because of some of the arguments that Senator Matzke put together. It is a good argument that Senator Matzke uses of why we shouldn't talk about this, this subject, and whenever we want to avoid a subject, we talk about introducing bills for public hearings, and we need to have input, and we all do that all the time. The bottom line is that this amendment is pertinent and a vital part of this concept of this bill, in my view. I support the Chambers' concep. in the amendment. I read the bill and I see where a father, if they want to exert their rights, you know, they will have five days, five days once they are informed to make a decision of what they wish to do, you know. And at that point their...certain rights then are certainly taken away. And I think if we are going to have a concept on the one end, where we say that fathers we want to step forward and take responsibility or forever hold your peace, there also must be the other end of the coin, where on the mother's side we say, look, if you are going to decide to put your baby up for adoption, you have a decision; do you want to keep the child in your own custody and take the child as your own, or do you wish to give it up? And if you wish to give it up, because a father comes in and now says I want, as he has always claimed, I would like to have custody of the child, for...to give the right to