

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

May 8, 1997

LB 389

SENATOR WILL: The house is under call. Senator Robinson, please check in. All unexcused members need to report to the Chamber and record their presence. The house is under call.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm going to use this time to make my closing as we take a look at this amendment to the committee amendments. It is for \$44,000 for '97-'98, \$45,000 for '98-'99. It is for a program coordinator for the Foster Care Review Board. It is a position that was originally planned and funded under LB 642 which was passed last year, 1996. Why did we need it then? Because we expanded the jurisdiction of the Foster Care Review Board over a number of other children who were then going to be reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. However, because of the other positions that were expanded, we ran into the personal services limitation and we couldn't... we couldn't, even though there was funding and even though there was an expansion, we ran into this executive branch limitation and couldn't put the person on. In the meantime, when asked what cuts could occur and the Executive Director was gone, this was put on something that could have been cut and, in fact, the argument is now made, no, we needed it then. We should have gotten it, but for the personal services limitation. It's something the Legislature's already said "yes" to, basically. And that given two things, first, the growth under 642 of the burdens of the Foster Care Review Board, and, secondly, the fact that you have the partnership, which is now enlarged, the whole entity that the Foster Care Review Board is supposed to keep some oversight on, critique, analyze, and serve as a goad to higher and better quality performance, this is not the time to underfund the Foster Care Review Board when we're making that kind of a huge restructuring and consolidation of child welfare issues in the partnership's program. So, this program coordinator position we had hoped to be able to fund in 642, we've bumped up against the personal services limitation. This is back on the table...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and I think it's well-justified by 642, and that expansion of the numbers of kids and reviews that were to be done by 642, the number of foster care review boards themselves have grown, and this is the person who helps train