

section at all. It basically says we ought to try to preserve families. Siblings ought to be adopted at the same time. At one time, we had a real problem with adopting, we had a lot of orphanages, people did not want to adopt and we had a lot more children who were without parents, and for that reason, we allowed these siblings to be separated far more readily than this provision would allow. This will allow that they can be separated but only if it was in the children's best interest. In other words, they could not be adopted in any other way and that is the basic provision there. The one section of this bill that still will be a bit controversial and that is the question of private adoptions. Now this provision, the private adoption situation is a difficult one. During the course of the committee hearings, there were a lot of problems that were brought out about attorneys and doctors getting together and trying to work out an adoption without going through either one of the agencies, adopting agencies, or without going through the Department of Welfare and there were a number of problems. Some of those problems stem from the fact that if someone wanted to, say a young woman, who was an unmarried woman, wanted to change her mind towards the end of this process, there was some economic incentives for the attorney and for the doctor to press this unwed mother into going through with the adoption, even though she might have changed her mind, and for that reason, there was a feeling by all of the adoption agencies in the state that we ought to restrict private adoptions. I mean even though private adoptions may happen, that they would have to be at least cleared either through the Department of Welfare or one of the adopting agencies, and that probably....there are some attorneys in the state who will be upset with that provision. Also we provide in the bill birthparents and siblings with an option of meeting. In other words, one of the provisions in this bill would allow for, if either a parent or the adopted child after they reach the age of twenty-five wants to try to contact their natural, not natural again, biological parent or vice versa that we would allow for a search procedure that can be conducted basically through an agency or either by the courts or independently. One of the provisions that Senator Kelly brought to my attention, and it is a noncontroversial section, was that dealing with medical histories of the mother and of the father and that section has been added to the bill for the obvious reason that there may be some medical problems that exist later on and these records, medical records, can be of great use and benefit to the physicians, the attending physicians, and so consequently, there is a desire to have