

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes, Mr. President and members. I believe this is a very, very important bill. I'm a little disappointed that Senator Chambers calls it a bad, bad bill. I believe that the problem with Senator Chambers might be the method in which the money is raised, but the intent of the bill is excellent because child abuse has been a serious problem and it is becoming more serious in this state each year. All we have to do is read the newspapers and look at the television. Perhaps a very brief summary of the bill, Section 1 is the intent section. Section 2 defines the board and the fund and the department and the director and Section 3 defines who the board members are. Section 4 designates the board's powers and duties; Section 5, the director's powers and duties. Section 6 establishes in the state treasury the child abuse prevention fund providing for the allowable money available for disbursement and again, until the fund reaches a million dollars, 75 percent of the contributions and the investment earnings are available for disbursement. Section 7 again is the section dealing with fees to be transmitted from the treasurer, directed that the dollars be credited to the child abuse prevention fund. Section 8 as amended by the committee defines child abuse and neglect. Section 9, again a new section by the committee, is the Douglas County section which we have dealt with already. Beginning with Section 10 through 14 I believe is the fee section which some have taken exception to a \$5.00 surcharge on marriage licenses, a \$3.00 surcharge on birth certificates. And Sections 15 and 16 allow for a making of a criminal records check for anyone or any licensing group or agency receiving a grant. This section was made necessary by the federal government so that the fund could become eligible for some federal grants and finally, I believe, the severability clause. That, in essence, Mr. President, is the bill as amended.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Now do you have an amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, the first item I have to the bill now is offered by Senator Chambers. (Read Chambers amendment as found on pages 1412-13 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it's bad when as a grown man you take seriously