

Judiciary Committee for the amendments.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, LB 600 is a bill brought to us by the Judiciary Committee and it is a Judiciary Committee priority bill. And it is a bill intended to effectuate the requirements of a federal law called the child support enforcement amendments passed in 1984. It is necessary...it is very likely necessary for us to pass this bill this year to avoid a penalty of over \$4 million from the federal government in funds withheld from our Child Support Enforcement Program and our Aid to Dependent Children Program. Now basically in 1984 Congress passed a law unanimously, as I understand it, in both houses imposing upon the states' requirements for an expedited child support collection program. Now you have been given numerous handouts, including a two-page item written by Jan Dutton who is currently the Referee in Lancaster County who undertakes a function very similar to that provided for under the rubric of masters in LB 600 and handouts showing the child support collection statistics nationwide in the State of Nebraska in Douglas County and in Lancaster County. And these figures show that there is a remarkable amount of delinquency in Nebraska as well as throughout the nation. In Douglas County, for instance, 60 to 65 percent of all child support orders are delinquent by at least 30 days with a total delinquency in Douglas County since 1957 of \$150 million. In Lancaster County there is a 69 percent delinquency of all court ordered cases of child support. That means that in all cases where husbands...and it is usually a man in 97 percent of the cases, a man that is required to pay child support, in 69 percent of the cases that man is delinquent by at least 30 days. The House Select Committee report completed in the early 1980s in researching the advisability of the federal bill concluded that nationwide 79 percent of all child support cases have a delinquency so we do do better in Nebraska by 10 or 15 percent. Now, what has happened in Nebraska in response to this program is that in 1980 or 1981 the Supreme Court used existing authority to set up a referee system in Douglas County and Lancaster County as currently existing. At the briefing we had Monday afternoon upon adjournment, the sitting referees from both Douglas and Lancaster County were present. Pat Cullan from Douglas County, Jan Dutton from Lancaster County, Senator Nelson, Senator Conway and others of the legislative staff were able to attend part of that briefing or all of that briefing and get a sense for