

Speak about the committee amendments?

SENATOR SIECK: Yes. I just want to know whether in this evaluation, and the pilot project, whether you are getting the parents of those handicapped children involved with it. I'll ask Senator Vickers to answer this.

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Senator Sieck, they are specifically mentioned. The parents of the children will be involved in that proceeding as well.

SENATOR SIECK: Thank you, Senator Vickers. To me that was very, very important. We...they are very close to those children and they can contribute considerable to the evaluation of that individual. I felt that that was needed. So I will support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Back to the bill. Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members, I have passed out a section-by-section analysis to you of the bill as it reads now, as it is amended. As Senator Vickers said, what we did was we did these studies this summer, LR 151, which was a study of special education, and we also had the study of the preschool, and we came back with some findings from these. We did not have anyone at the hearings testify against any of these bills, so we decided to just put them all into one. In response to Senator Sieck's question, on LR 151, on that task force, we did include several parents on the task force, and they were able to make some good contributions because those...you know, with their children being affected they were really interested in this issue. I think it is important that they continue to be involved in this issue. Just a few brief words about the bill. What the real intent of the bill is is to try and create some equity and some consistency in the way that we identify and verify handicapped children across this state. It seems to be a lot of variance from different areas. And this is to