

April 7, 1986

LB 600

would move to amend his bill and, Senator, this is the one you filed with me earlier, I guess early last week.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, is that AM2569?

CLERK: Yes, sir, it is.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, AM2569 has been printed in your bill book and we, about a half an hour ago, distributed...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have order in the Chamber, please, so the speaker may be heard.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: We circulated about a half an hour ago a synopsis of this particular amendment that you should all have on your desk. You all will recall that during the second special session we passed a major piece of legislation, LB 7, which sets up an automatic withholding process for child support payments. LB 7 is mandated, of course, by the federal government with penalties of up to \$4 million for noncompliance. LB 600 was introduced as that bill at the beginning of the 1985 session but we didn't reach it prior to adjournment last May, then with the second special session we brought LB 600 in in the form of LB 7 and, of course, it passed. And the assumption has been that we would hold LB 600 on Select File where it was last April to make any necessary changes in LB 7, and LB 600 does that. It presents now some amendments that have been developed as a result of our experience with LB 7 since the second special session and it also does two additional things. Let me deal with the amendments to LB 7 first. In Section 1 we, in effect, loosen up the standards for appointing child support referees. LB 7 was very strict. It allowed a child support referee only in Douglas County, Lancaster County and Sarpy County, only one per county and did not allow any additional child support referees unless specifically authorized by the Legislature. The language in Section 1 loosens that up considerably because of concern that has been expressed by the Kansas City office of the Health and Human Services Department and gives the Supreme Court wider latitude upon a finding that existing judicial resources are insufficient to appoint masters...child support referees, I should say, we changed the term from master to referee, to serve anywhere in the state. This change is basically in response to a need that we feel here to loosen the standards up a little bit