

and also concern expressed by those federal officials who are overseeing our child support correction efforts...collection efforts. Section 2 (gavel) Section 2 clarifies the counties will supply the courtroom facilities and equipment. Sections 3 through 9 clarify...are requested by the Department of Social Services and clarify certain language about the wage withholding process again to bring ourselves in closer compliance with the federal guidelines. Now, Section 10 is a different matter. We are using these amendments to LB 600 as an opportunity to remedy a problem that we have in divorce cases that the committee heard and dealt with in the form of LB 370 introduced by Senator Beutler and that problem basically is that under current law a couple can undergo a divorce and then if one of them dies during the six-month waiting period, the period of waiting for that divorce to become final, why the surviving spouse can still inherit the estate of the deceased spouse even though they have become divorced. And that happened here in Nebraska. The Nebraska Supreme Court in the case Estate of Watson which is cited in the handout, found that even though a couple had been divorced when the...I believe it was the husband that died in that case, within the six-month waiting period and the spouse inherited the entire estate. This is corrective language recommended by the Bar Association indicating that that happens. The divorce is deemed final as of the day it was granted, not the expiration of the six-month waiting period to take care of that problem. Section 14, as described in the synopsis, is a section of a bill, 923, that was advanced by the Judiciary Committee unanimously which allows the Department of Social Services to subsidize guardianships which will allow children in long-term permanent relationships with a guardian to continue that guardianship role instead of requiring that guardianships be shifted from one guardian to the next. This will allow the Department of Social Services to more effectively administer foster child situations where there has not been an adoption problem foster child situation where an adoption is not possible. That, basically, is an explanation of what these amendments do. Again, they are largely either required by the federal government or based on experience we have had with the Department of Social Services or the Court Administrator's Office to make LB 7 work better and we are also using it as a vehicle to make those two other changes that I have described. So with that, Mr. President, I ask the adoption of these amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.