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SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think I opened up Pandora's Box with this amendment. Let me quickly explain the legal situation and why I think this is a pretty good amendment. Our law says right now that an obligation to pay child support shall be a lien on all real property owned by the fellow who is obligated to pay the child support. It says that. It says it right now. So what happens when a divorced person who is obligated to pay child support goes out to buy a piece of real estate in his own name or her own name, assuming that it is a woman who has to pay the child support, that person has to get the lien cleared up and it doesn't make any difference whether that person is current or not current in the child support. That person really does have to get the lien cleared up and the current mechanism for getting the lien cleared up is a court procedure. What happens is that the potential purchaser of the real estate has to either get the consent of the former spouse to release the real estate from the lien and also have the approval of such consent by the court or in the alternative, simply, if you can't get the consent of the former spouse, then you set this matter down for a court hearing. But the upshot is, there has to be some court approval of the release of the new real estate from the child support lien. That's current law, that's just plain current law. When I do these transactions for people, they are always irritated about it because they really think that this is a case of Big Brother getting in the way of their being able to buy a piece of property and they are particularly bitter about it if they are absolutely current in their child support because they don't understand why they should have to pay an additional transactional cost to get this piece of property released of a lien so that they can buy it. Several people have asked me incidentally, how that lien ranks in terms of priorities. Is that inchoate child support lien? Does it take precedence over a first mortgage on this piece of property, or is it subsequent to the first mortgage? I talked to my title examiner friend, Senator Beutler, about the issue because I didn't know the answer to that question. He tells me that there is a case in Nebraska which holds that a purchase money mortgage on that piece of real estate takes precedence over this inchoate child support lien. Well, in any event, LB 7 has another provision in it which says that, on