

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this amendment basically just has two parts. You may recall that with regard to the prosecution of child support cases that basically it is the function of the county attorney to be in the business of prosecuting those types of cases. It is their prerogative and their duty to do that. However, right now in some cases the county attorneys are contracting with the Department of Social Services that lawyers provided by the Department of Social Services are actually providing the child support prosecution in many counties across the state. What this amendment would do would be to basically say that in those cases where the county attorney chooses not to do it himself, that rather than the Department of Social Services, the Attorney General's Office is going to see that this job gets done so that the authorized attorneys under this bill instead of being people appointed by Social Services will be people appointed by the Attorney General and the reason for this is quite simple. Getting people to pay child support is in part what reality is and it is part a bluff, that is people have to think that the law is coming after them and is serious about coming after them if they are going to pay, a lot of them. They are just like that. What we are saying here is that we think it is going to have a better effect overall on child support collections if people know that if not the county attorney, it is the Attorney General that is coming after them and not some lawyer for the welfare department or Social Services who is just in, you know, just in the business of trying to hassle them some more. We think it is going to have more power, more force and more effect and is the better way to go. The second half of the amendment basically just strikes the provision that Vard Johnson was objecting to the other day with regard to the lien on the new spouse. It is a separate part of this particular amendment so those basically are the two parts. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we have reviewed this amendment also in the Judiciary Committee staff and would encourage the Legislature to adopt it. I think it will clearly enhance the enforcement provisions of LB 7 by allowing increased involvement by the Attorney General's Office which is the chief law enforcement office in the state. I think it will help the act work better. I