

unless this body has voted on an appropriations bill which includes programming, drug counseling, whatever else we need inside these institutions to make them effective. So the language in the bill is going to be changed, I think, to indicate that for the next year or so the Department of Corrections may develop this as an alternative, but frankly there may be other alternatives. I know Senator Ashford is concerned about some other alternatives, and come back to the body for approval of both the concept as developed, and funding, if we have the resources and ability to do it at that time. So I...I will assure you that this bill will not advance in the present form requiring us to commit to something in future years unless we have an opportunity to come back to that and address the issue of whether we want to do it and how much it will cost.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hohenstein. Senator Hohenstein...oh, Senator Bernard-Stevens, we're still on your time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I guess for this point I'm willing to go along on that faith.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I do have some concerns about...about that particular process. And I go back to LB 830, we passed a few years ago, that we had appropriated some funds for the caseworkers to be a part of the state system, but now we have a six to eight million dollar budget that is...is already included in the outline...out-lying years, but we may have to make some decisions of how to fund that when, in fact, the process has already started. And I guess one of the concerns I have is, and I don't...I haven't made up my mind on this portion of it. But if we're getting to a bill on Final Reading that says we will be doing these things, we're not going to have to pay for it now, it will be in the off-lying years, my concern will be that a lot of work will be done. And when we get to the actual point of are we going to fund it in the off-lying years, we'll already be committed to do so. And that process does concern me somewhat. And I will be going along your line of faith at this point. But on Select File I certainly will be very...pressing the point a little bit further as to the funding aspect of 627.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hohenstein, your light is on next.