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LB 466

creating a guardianship or conservatorship. A lot of the times when it comes to the point of needing a guardian or conservator, and in many cases the person might be approaching need for Medicaid, there might be a shortage of funds, and to have increased costs and delays was not appropriate. And sometimes there's a real need from the standpoint of safety or health of the ward as well. So people went to work on it, and over the course of the next couple of years we've seen work done by practitioners, a committee of the Bar Association, in conjunction with the Nebraska Advocacy Services. And this culminated in the latter part of '96 with some provisions that were agreed to and approved by both the Bar Association committee and the Nebraska Advocacy Services, and that resulted in LB 466 being introduced. The public hearing was held by Judiciary. There were no opponents appearing to testify against the bill. There was some support shown by the Bar Association at the public hearing, and it was advanced on a seven to zero, one person not voting, vote. Just to hit a couple of highlights of the bill, and I'm going to do an imitation. Senator Robinson, are you here? Are you here, Senator Robinson? Are you listening, Senator Robinson? This bill, this bill, one of the significant things that it does is it removes "advanced age" as a basis for a guardianship. (Laughter.) And I just wanted Senator Robinson to know that. No particular reason. There's no question, Senator Robinson. But I will let Senator Robinson respond, if he would like, anyway.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: You know I was home at the coffee shops the other day, and they were talking about you. And three people, three people said, how much older is Senator Bromm than you? I said, many, many years.

SENATOR BROMM: (Laugh.) I'm sorry I brought it up. But let's... I'm sorry I brought it up, Senator Robinson. This, besides that aspect of it, this legislation allows for what we call a limited guardianship instead of a full guardianship. So if a person is in need of some help but not...doesn't need the entire guardianship or conservatorship over all of their activities, it allows for limitations to be placed on the authority of the guardian or conservator, which is a good,