

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 9, 1997 LB 852

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 852, it's a bill that was introduced by Senators Crosby, Dierks, Lynch, Tyson, and Vrtiska. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 22nd of this year, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Chair would recognize Senator Crosby to open.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 852 provides for a criminal background check for employees of providers of developmental disability services. It is required of all employees who have direct client contact or are left alone with clients and who are not licensed or certified as members of a profession. This bill was introduced after I had conferences with many constituents who raised concern for the safety of developmentally disabled children and adults who are naturally vulnerable to most people, but particularly to those who provide services to them and spend a great deal of time with them alone, either day or night. I know that all of you realize these people are very loving people and they can be taken advantage of in a way that we don't want to happen. We need to provide them with as many safeguards as we can to assure that they are receiving the best care possible and not being violated or mistreated. There's little they can do to defend themselves and sometimes, most of the time, they don't even realize what's happening. They are truly the perfect prey for abuse and neglect. That's what the bill does, and we do have committee amendments and one other amendment, so I'll stop there, Mr. Speaker. And I think that Senator Dierks is going to do the committee amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks, on the committee amendment. (AM0798 appears on page 1008 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. The committee amendments provide that employees of state operated services and facilities providing developmental disability services are subject to the bill. It broadens the aspect of the bill just a little bit. The amendments also