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LB 379, 575, 594, 828

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, to open on your amendment, 1893.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 828 is a cleanup bill, and this is a technical amendment to clean up three additional issues. One is a child care licensing and regulation. Two is licensure investigations by the Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure. And three, physician assistants being given the authority by doctors to prescribe drugs and devices. AM1893 does the following things. In LB 9...or, excuse me...LB 594, if you'll recall, the Legislature transferred the licensing and regulation of child care facilities from HHS to HHS Regulation and Licensure. AM1893 simply provides for the transfer of rules and regulations as well. It says that the child care rules and regulations adopted by HHS are attributed to HHS Regulation and Licensure, are treated as if adopted by HHS Regulation and Licensure on or after the effective date of LB 828. The second thing, LB 575, which was introduced at the request of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. This bill was heard, there was no opposition to the bill, it was advanced unanimously by the Health Committee. And AM1893 amends provisions of LB 575 into 828. LB 575 basically does three things also. It extends immunity from the civil liability to experts retained by professional board and members of a professional or occupation who provide consultation or testimony for the Department of Regulation and Licensure. AM1893 and LB 575 authorizes the exchange of information and evidence between the department and law enforcement agencies or other state licensing agencies as necessary and appropriate in the discharge of the department's regulatory duties, but not under circumstances to...but under circumstances to insure against unauthorized access to such information. It requires insurers to cooperate with the department and provide information requested by the department about possible violations. Current law requires insurers to disclose such information if known. LB 379 was passed by this Legis...by this session of the Legislature already, and it had to do with physicians delegating authority to physician assistants to prescribe medications. AM1893 makes a necessary technical correction to the bill. It simply requires physicians' assistants to obtain a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, or DEA, number if they are given the authority