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FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003 LB 55, 390, 667

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I don't think this will be as controversial and, hopefully, not take all that long. LB 667 could be called a Health and Human Services Committee clean-up bill. It addresses the following issues, some of which were introduced last year, some of which were introduced the year before that, but certainly during the last biennium, and advanced by the committee but not debated by the Legislature. It changes provisions related to infectious disease exposure, trainers of service dogs for disability, and respiratory care. It outright repeals sections relating to the Community-Based Neurobehavioral Action Plan and the Parkinson's Disease Registry Act. There are committee amendments to the bill, and I will also be introducing an amendment after the committee amendments to make some needed changes and add other provisions to the bill as recommended by the committee, which I hope you'll find acceptable. There are sheets being passed around which kind of hopefully will explain everything that is in the bill, and everything that the bill does. First of all, infectious disease exposure, LB 667 contains provisions of LB 55, that was introduced last year as LB 1274. It was introduced by Senator Byars relating to exposures of infectious diseases. It expands the list of persons who could be tested if they believe they have a significant exposure to an infectious disease or condition. If consent for testing is refused, a court could order the testing to be done. It also clarifies that both paid and volunteer firefighters are included in the definition of the term "firefighter" and adds hepatitis C within the definition of infectious diseases or conditions in section 71-507. The bill contains trainers of service dogs for the disabled, which was introduced last year by Senator Aguilar, and again this year as LB 390. It simply gives trainers of service dogs for disabled persons the same access to public accommodations with a dog in training as a disabled person with a service dog. It also takes care of respiratory care, which was introduced in 2001 as LB 557. This year LB 667 provides that it is not a violation of respiratory care licensure provisions for a registered sleep technologist to perform oxygen therapy or the initiation of noninvasive positive pressure ventilation relating to the study of sleep disorders, if these procedures are performed or