

Services Committee in middle February which is the result of the product of what we call the 407 process, which is Nebraska Credentialing Review Program that this Legislature established some years ago. LB 1137 went through the 407 process, final approval was given to this matter in December of last year, and became the basis for LB 1137. To give you briefly a little bit of an overview of where we are today and where we're going with LB 1137, which becomes amendment 4332, this deals with the credentialing of psychologists and changes that method to leave an outmoded two-tier system of credentialing and going to a single-tiered system. Currently, we have both licensed psychologists and we have clinical certification of psychologists. And it has become extremely confusing, particularly to the consumers who are asked to make choices on services that are available from these individuals. Because of this, the psychologists took to the 407 process the idea that they wanted to change the scope of practice requirements for a psychologist in the State of Nebraska and unify this credentialing process. Amendment 4332 does this. What...what we had before was a tremendous amount of confusion between the two tiers. You had a practice overlap. At the present time, you have psychology...psychology currently practiced in the State of Nebraska by unlicensed individuals, and I think it was very important that we tried to get to the root of this to find out what we really needed to do to unconfuse the public and the psychologists themselves. One thing that we found as we worked through this was that we've tried, as hard as we can, to accommodate everyone that's in the field, everyone that's been licensed under both of these tiers as much as we possibly can, while we've been working through this process. I think substantially we have managed to do that. There are exceptions, as there always are in this type of process. We do have individuals who have asked us to make exceptions within this change to accommodate them that quite honestly are not qualified to be included in this change. They, as others who have achieved the licensure credentialing necessary to be practiced in this state, it's very important that they meet a certain criteria. And because of that, we felt there were certain people that were just plain going to have to take another exam or get additional training before they're going to be included in this licensing procedure. I've tried not to be as confusing as the original law was but to let you know that this is a product that's been studied very, very extensively by the Board of Health, by the mental health boards, by the director of the Department of Health, and it has the approval of those groups.