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LB 324

Care Trust Fund Act, or LB 1070 adopted last year. This act requires the appointment of the Governor as the chairperson and five additional members to an Excellence in Health Care Council, but it does not require legislation or legislative confirmation of these appointments. This amendment simply requires the appointments to be approved by a majority of the Legislature. The amendment also has an emergency clause and makes clear that any members appointed to the council before the effective date of the act will also require legislative confirmation. The Governor's Health and Human Services Policy Cabinet approves the change and I urge adoption of the amendment and readvancement of the bill. This is one of those things that you sometimes are awakened at night and you think, gee, I wonder who is going to be approved or who is going to be appointed by the Governor to this position. As you know, this is going to be an extremely important position and they will be dealing in several millions of dollars in grants and proposals, and there has been some discussion on the floor, Senator Chambers mentioned, you know, is this just a rubber stamp? Do we ever question some of these? It certainly is nice to have the people appear before a committee, to look at their resume, to look at the financial reporting that they must do, and then to proceed accordingly. And so this is simply that the Legislature would have to, in a confirmation process, approve these individuals who are appointed by the Governor. That's all the amendment does. I would urge the return to Select File for the adoption of this amendment. Thank you. I'll be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. For discussion on the motion to return, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. Senator Jensen, will you yield to a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: According to, I believe, the Governor's Office, Vicki Powell, those appointments have already been selected. Do you know who they are?