

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2002 LB 407, 1021

LB 407 to E & R Initial. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 407 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1021. It was introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The Health and Human Services Committee referred the bill to General File with committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM2500, Legislative Journal page 476.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, as Vice Chairman of Health and Human Services Committee, you're recognized to open on the advancement of LB 1021.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. LB 1021 is a voluminous bill that had its genesis back in 1997, and since that time has had myriads and hours and weeks and months and virtually years of discussions and bringing professional associations and those people who are licensed and credentialed in the state Nebraska together to arrive at this piece of legislation. And, unless I'm surprised by something, I...the members of the committee have been assured that there is basically unanimity on the agreement that all of the professions that are affected are...are happy with this piece of legislation. There is a committee amendment. Senator Suttle also has an amendment to make a change that's agreed upon. But to take you back in history a little bit, in 1997 this Legislature passed LB 183 and mandated the Health and Human Services Department to undertake a comprehensive review of all healthcare credentialing in the state. LB 819 sub...subsequently was passed in 2000 dealing with the licensure of healthcare facilities and healthcare services, and LB 1021 now is offered by the department relating the credentialing of all healthcare professionals. And somewhat shocking to me was the fact that we have over 300,000 licensed professionals in this state so, as you can see, it has not been an easy task