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LB 272, 273, 300

AM0649. (Legislative Journal page 717.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair would recognize Senator Chambers, to open on his amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I know that it's been kind of a run-of-the-mill morning, but I kind of wish you would listen to the discussion on these two bills, this one and the next one, because I have a concern that goes beyond just these bills. LB 273 is a bill which, in its present form, would do what I described on the sheet that I handed out. It has to do with regulating breeders and those who operate animal shelters, and so forth. You're going to have to bear with me this morning, and I hope that my voice may not betray me, but what I'm doing with LB 273 is taking all of the original contents out of that bill, so it remains a shell. Then I'm asking that you adopt the amendment that is before you. This amendment consists of the language currently in LB 272 and LB 300. LB 272 is on General File. I introduced it. LB 300 is on General File. Senator Hartnett introduced it. LB 272, which is what I want to put into the bill, along with the contents of LB 300, would say that those who work with child protective agencies, or those who work with the agencies that protect the aged, or those who deal with domestic violence would be required to report any animal cruelty that they observe. There was no opposition to the bill. The support was strong. And there were people with experience in this area who pointed out that there are women who have remained in abusive situations because the spouse would brutalize or even kill a companion animal if she left. One woman did not leave, but the man still took her toy poodle and beat it to death with his fists. There was a woman in Lincoln who was so attached to a cow...and this is for real. She lived in Crete, I think. She would not leave, because of her attachment to this very large animal, and she thought if she left the spouse would do terrible things to it. So some people with the Humane Society, in connection with others who deal in domestic violence, had managed to create a situation where the woman and the spouse would be away from the house. And at that time, they spirited the cow away, placed it in a safe location, notified the woman, and then she left. It has also been shown that those who do