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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2004      LB 942, 1005

SENATOR JENSEN: I'll waive closing, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: He waives closing. The question before the body is AM3011, which is an amendment to the Health and Human Services Committee amendment to LB 1005. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on an amendment offered by Senator Jensen to the committee amendment. The question before the body is the amendment AM3011. Have you all voted who wish to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The amendment has been adopted. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Byars would move to amend the committee amendments with AM3047. (Legislative Journal page 974.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on AM3047.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I think it was appropriate. I wanted to thank Senator Thompson yesterday, who distributed a copy of an article from Governing magazine that talked about states that stand out, and part of that article was a paragraph about Nebraska and how we're now a model in how to develop a local public health system, and I think we're all especially proud of that. We went from virtually dead last in public health to being one of the leaders in our system in the country. And this is what I'm bringing to you as far as an amendment to the committee amendments with Senator Jensen's approval. As perfect as we always think our legislation is, there are a few changes that need to be made to the public health law. This was brought to the committee in the form of LB 942, which was advanced unanimously, and this is the amendment that's before you today. I'll explain it briefly and certainly take any questions. The first section amends the definition of state aid. This brings public health departments under the Nebraska Budget Act so that they are in compliance and