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February 1, 2005 LB 52, 61

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. You've heard the closing on advancement LB 52. The question before the body is, shall LB 52 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. The question is, shall LB 52 advance? Have you all voted on the question who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 52.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 52 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 61.

CLERK: LB 61, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Burling. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 6 of this year, at that time referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill was advanced to General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Burling, you're recognized to open on LB 61.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 61 is a bill that makes technical corrections to an already state statute. In 2002, this body unanimously passed LB 962 (sic), which provides for release of certain adoption information for heirs of adoptees, and this LB 61 was introduced last year, came out committee last year, and died for lack of time. Provides clarification about sensitive information maintained in adoption records, and make a change to the fee for conducting searches for the heir of an adoptee. The problem was that we understood that the intent of LB 962 (sic) was...would be carried out the way it was worded and we understand now, since then, that there are three departments in the Health and Human Services Department that have access to these records and so they needed to each be named separately, and so that is what LB 61 does, is enabling legislation for LB 962 (sic) to be carried out. And I appreciate the help of Senator Jensen and the committee for expediting this, this year, so that this intended legislation can get underway. It also clarifies some restrictions to records that will be given out as per federal regulations under the HIPAA Act, and so that is the other part