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FLOOR DEBATE

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to the State Behavioral Health Council from each of those advisory committees, and from the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, be consumers. We have heard from the consumers in this state. They want a greater participation. Who knows better what a consumer is faced with than a consumer of those services? Secondly, the bill expands membership on the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission of the Legislature from 20 to 25 members. The commission has now met seven times. And I've provided you with a brief fact sheet as we've moved along through that. And members of the Health and Human Services Committee have expressed an interest in seeing more consumer representation and rural representation on the commission. And should this bill pass, those additions to the commission would be from rural communities, and also we would look at increasing the consumer participation. Also, I might add that on the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission, we don't have a rural doc out there, who is usually the one who is first presented, in many of the rural communities, with a consumer of mental health services. And so we very much would like to have that representation. There are committee amendments to the bill, and also an amendment to the committee amendment. And with that, I'll stop there and be willing to open on the committee amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. (Visitors introduced.) On with LB 1...or, LB 551, rather. And Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on AM0695 to LB 551.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. AM0695 adds provisions from LB 618, which was a bill introduced by Senator Flood; and LB 534, which was introduced by Senator Synowiecki; and adds an emergency clause. I might mention to you that Senator Synowiecki's bill has advanced on a consent calendar. And so even though I'll be talking about that, that particular bill, through an amendment to AM0695, will be withdrawn from the amendment. It requires the division of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the regional behavioral health authorities, to establish and maintain a data and information system for all persons receiving state-funded behavioral health services under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act. Information maintained by the division must include, but is not