

SENATOR COPE: So, what we are doing is babysitting children from a month or whatever on through, I guess there is no age limit, and that is the part that bothers me of having two separate bills doing the same thing now. Before I could understand.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Cope, probably I haven't explained it correctly, and you don't misunderstand, it is my explanation. We will not have two separate laws, we genuinely will not. This law will literally replace the child care licensing statute that we adopted in our state in 1943. This is a rewrite of the child care licensing statute. As I say it expands the regulatory coverage to pick up industry based child care, to pick up preschool, provides a new administrative sanction, sets a two year licensing term, gives the Department of Public Welfare a basic authority to work with the other agencies that have some regulatory responsibility and also pre-empts any local regulation of a facility which would be more stringent than what the welfare department has, but that is basically what it does. It is a real clean up. Also because of Senator Haberman's amendment and Senator Newell's amendment for the first time it actually exempts from coverage children in homes where there are four or fewer children.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support LB 520. I think it is a very good bill and I think basically I would like to remind people where I have been on this issue. When Senator Burrows proposed the deregulation of child care, I supported that. We offered the same amendment that we offered here today on that amendment because I honestly and sincerely believe that we have regulated, as long as we didn't do anything it was all right, but if we start enforcing the law we are going to have a problem. This bill deregulates to a greater extent than it regulates. It adds preschools and industrial kinds of day care facilities. Now those kinds of facilities really are the commercial type of operation. But the converse of that is that it deregulates the small family, the small non-commercial people. Now I know that there have been letters, people have received letters and concerns about this bill. But, if you look at it not as it was, not as it was as a big A bill and that sort of stuff, but if you look at the issue as it is, this is a decent and reasonable statewide approach to the regulation of child care, an important issue. Senator Von Minden, this bill deregulates more than it regulates. In your area it will be received much more warmly than the present law is. Senator Haberman, I wish you would have, I would have had a chance to talk to you earlier about why we should have agreed to support the bill because overall we are going to