

statute. This is written far more broadly than they would like, but without the authorization it provides, they don't feel they can move forward in this area. And so, really, I don't think we have much choice. We need to pass the bill, and others have looked at it and felt the same thing. I think what will happen is this, we will see the bill will pass and this will pass, and then we will see the forms adjusted to meet the federal mandates, and if it goes beyond that, if it raises the concerns that Senator Kristensen says, and people are, obviously, upset, they will let us know and we can come back. Now maybe we can do something about it, maybe we can't. What I am saying is if the federal government has mandated it, it is going to be tough and we can make that impact back there, but certainly this Legislature has that oversight if at any point the Health Department goes beyond what is reasonable and what is required by the federal government. We have that authority to step in and change this language back to be more specific. I, at this time, don't know quite how we would do that and I am not quite sure that we will have a problem, in any event, but, nevertheless, it is good to put the department on notice that we are interested and concerned. As to the marriage question that Senator Kristensen asked, these sort of things are already required on marriage forms, the reason for termination and some of that is already there, I think, for the most part. This is not intended to drastically change the situation but only to clarify in statute the authorization the department has to develop these forms. And so I feel that although they are legitimate questions and they were raised at the hearing and raised again now on Select File, that we are in a position where we have to move forward with this, and if there are any problems resulting from it, I stand ready to work with everybody to follow up and make the corrections we need. So I would ask opposition to this amendment and proceeding on with the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support Senator Kristensen's concerns involving this particular portion of LB 344. The reason I will be supporting it is that a lot of this information is already required. If you will look on page 3, lines 21, 22, and 23, when it requests information on racial, I am not sure about ethnic background, I don't believe I have ever seen that on a divorce decree, but when you file for a divorce, you have to file a form with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, and prior to a divorce being granted, you have to