

PRESIDENT: Thank you. We'll move on to LB 348, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, 348 was a bill introduced by Senator Langford. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11 of last year, Mr. President, at that time referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Health Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please. Senator Wesely, before you start, (gavel). Could we hold the noise down, it's getting a little disruptive and we're having difficulty hearing the speakers. Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, LB 348 revisits an issue that this Legislature hasn't looked at now for about seven years, I think. In 1983, we had legislation dealing with the scope of practice of chiropractors. And, at that time, a number of changes were made in the law dealing with chiropractors, and it was quite an interesting, colorful debate as we raged through General, Select and Final Reading. I don't know if this version of the debate and discussion on this issue will be anywhere close to that one, but nevertheless we are revisiting that issue, the scope of practice of chiropractors. As originally introduced, LB 348 would have provided for chiropractors to add to their scope of practice the ability to x-ray extremities, soft tissues, and also other diagnostic procedures, primarily lab work. This concept was submitted to what we call a 407 review process; 407, as you know, is the review of scope of practice of different health practitioners. It was established by this Legislature about five years ago and has been, I think, a very effective means of screening through different requests for changes in scope of practice, either expansion of those scopes of practice or allowing new types of fields to be allowed to practice in the state. Well, through the review that was conducted of this matter, and as you know, hopefully, LB 407 reviews take three different stages. There's a Technical Advisory Committee that is formed of different health professionals to, on a professional basis, review a request. Then that recommendation goes to the Board of Health, which is a cross-section of health professionals, to review the request. And then finally the Director of Health makes the final judgment on that request. This 407 review was conducted in 1988, and so we're talking about a review that was some time ago. But it did lead to the following conclusions, that, as