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technology industry by the state Board of Cosmetology in the Department of Health and Human Services Systems, Regulation and Licensure Section. This is the second year I've brought this bill to the Legislature. I introduced the bill last year and we did...the Health and Human Services Committee did advance it after we had some long talks and...and did some compromising with the Cosmetology Board. The definition of "nail technology" in the bill refers to the application of artificial nails for compensation. The simple application of nail polish and nail filing is not regulated by the bill, unless done in conjunction with the application of artificial nails. The application of these nails has inherent associated health risks. It's important that any person applying artificial nails to another person's nails, for compensation, be properly trained in how to sanitize the nail bed, hygiene precautions, client health and safety concerns, and, most importantly, when the application of artificial nails is contraindicated because of the condition of the client's nails and nail beds. LB 68 requires licensure of nail technicians, persons who apply these nails, nail technology salons, nail technology instructors and schools. Persons who are licensed as technicians and instructors must show evidence of continuing education to renew licenses. Persons who are practicing nail technology prior to the effective date of the bill may apply for initial licensure without meeting the education requirements, but will be required to meet continuing education requirements for license renewals. The bill expands the current regulatory scheme for cosmetology to allow licensed cosmetologists and cosmetology salons to offer nail tech services, and to allow licensed cosmetology instructors and schools to teach this nail technology. The bill expands the current Board of Cosmetology to include one nail technician. The regulations for nail technology contained in the bill closely mirror the current statutes regulating cosmetology. Nebraska is one of just four states which does not regulate this industry. The things that we heard in committee about possible diseases were appalling, to say the least. There are salons which offer these services throughout the state. Some are connected with cosmetology salons, many are not. Without this bill, there's no guarantee that a person who applies artificial nails has been adequately trained to identify contraindications and is able to properly apply the nails without risk of serious damage to the nail and to the finger. The cost of implementing