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February 18, 1999 LB 411

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Coordsen to open on LB 411.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 411 is a bill that is promoted by the nursing...the hospital home society and what it does is expands, in a careful way, the educational degrees and work experience that a person might have to qualify for a nursing home administrator certificate in the state of Nebraska. A number of years ago this body created the nursing home administrator's license and, in doing that, created a very narrow set of standards to qualify for that...that particular certificate, basically, a two-year degree plus a six-months proctorship at a nursing home, a two-year degree from a community college that provided instruction in the core subjects that were necessary. As the situation in healthcare, I'm talking about nursing homes and other extended care facilities, has changed over time and with some of the proposed new requirements increasing the need for more numbers, greater numbers of nursing home administrators, this bill is proposed to...to provide a better mechanism of allowing people who are in the field or interested in getting into the field and are qualified, both from the standpoint of education as well as experience, education in the core educational requirements when I speak of education, to be...be allowed to take the test for nursing home administration written exam. And what it does is it expands the licensure requirements to include satisfactory evidence of an associate degree that includes the core educational requirements, and an administrator-in-training program under a certified preceptor, and that's the program that we have today. Then it goes on to add a degree or advanced degree and mentoring program under a certified preceptor; number three, a nursing degree plus previous work experience in healthcare administration, plus a mentoring program under a certified preceptor; four, a degree or advanced degree in healthcare, healthcare administration or services, and previous work experience in healthcare administration; and, finally, it adds another classification of associate degree, previous work experience, and mentoring program under a certified preceptor. The over...and there's also an overriding requirement in that there has to be successful completion of a National Association Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administration written exam and the state exam. The administrator must be full-time and responsible