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their veterinarian, establish a working relationship in which they have the...what's called the veterinarian-client relationship in which they can administer the drug with the oversight of a veterinarian, if you will? They will store the drugs, they will train themselves in using the drugs, and this would apply to animal welfare agencies, not the public ones, but for things like a humane society. We had to undergo a rather good deal of discussion with professional organizations that are highly concerned, veterinarians, pharmacists, and we have adopted as many amendments as we can to make sure that their interests are met. I believe the committee amendments will be, in some measure, those that are requested by the Nebraska Veterinarian Medical Association, which I, as the sponsor, agreed to, and for that reason the bill was advanced. In the end, this will allow for the use of lethal injections for animals by community animal well-being organizations working in conjunction with veterinarians, and with appropriate standards, I believe. I would ask for the advancement of the bill, but I know that the Agriculture Committee has amendments. I've seen them and I approve of them and ask for their adoption as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments. (Standing Committee amendment AM0540 is found on page 1046 of the Legislative Journal.)

**SENATOR DIERKS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. The committee amendments, what they do is remove references to animal control authorities and collaborating veterinarian agreements, and they make the agreement between the animal welfare organization, in other words the humane societies, and it includes that there has to be a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship before these things can happen. So the veterinarians are involved because, you see, you're dealing with a controlled substance. The "sodium pentobarb" is controlled substance and requires professional handling, professional use, and professional ordering. They're...we're the only people...you just can't order this stuff unless you have a license to do that sort of thing. So these things are all controlled by the veterinarian who's going to have the collaborating agreement with the humane society, and that's what the...what the...what the committee amendment does.