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LB 1025

and demand for nurses in the state and provide a strategy to meet the health needs of consumers who lack care because of the shortages of nurses. We're at a point now where we're very close to, when you put on your call bell and you're in the nursing...and you're in a hospital, nobody answers because there isn't anybody there. And we're going to be reaching this point if we don't address this. I'm handing out some information on how the nurse shortage is being felt and the reduction as the years go by, the number of people who are going into nursing. There are two nurses on the floor of this Legislature. Let me tell you, if you ever don't know what a nurse does or how much we work or how hard we work, please ask one of us. It is very not only physically demanding, it is emotionally and stressful and it's very demanding work, plus you have to be fairly knowledgeable about what is going on with students...or with patients. I've been thinking students so I'm saying students instead of patients. The Center is governed by a 16-member board and appointed by the Governor, and represents various health interests. And the Health and Human Services will provide administrative support in the original bill. After Senator Jensen introduces the Health and Human Services amendment, I will go into greater detail on what my amendment does and the reduction of cost and how we're going to try to implement this so that we can have a better idea of where the nursing shortage is, in what part of the state. It's pretty wide felt, but in the rural areas it is in a crisis situation. So that will be all I will do to open up this bill, and will introduce my amendment as soon as Senator Jensen is done.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Jensen, to open on the committee amendments to LB 1025, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'll just take but a minute because actually Senator Suttle amendment to follow this replaces this. The committee amendment reduces the number of students eligible for scholarships under the Nursing Scholarship Act portion of the bill from 100 to 50. The amendment changes legislative intent