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FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 241

Jensen. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 13 of this year, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Jensen to open on LB 241.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, LB 241 is a rather straightforward bill that changes the way Public Service Commission sets fees for its Housing Department seals. Housing seals are applied by the commission to recreational vehicles, manufactured homes, and modular homes to indicate compliance where applicable construction standards exist. This function is cash funded by the commission fees. Current law requires the commission to annually adopt rules and regulations for the setting of Housing Department fees. LB 241 would simply permit the commission to set the fees by notice and a hearing instead. The purpose of the change is to shorten the period of time necessary to set fees, and minimize the use of government resources. The rule-making process involves several steps that can be very time consuming. The present method would take anywhere from approximately 12 months to 18 months to complete. But the change also would serve to maintain a transparent public process for the setting of the fees. Affected parties would be notified of the hearing in a similar rule...or similar way to the rule-making notification process now, and would essentially have the same opportunity for comment on the proposed fees. The committee heard testimony in favor of the change from the commission, from the Manufactured Housing Association. There was no opposition to the bill. Health and Human Services Committee voted unanimously to advance the bill to General File. I would just ask for advancement of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Any persons wishing to discuss LB 241? Seeing none, Senator Jensen waives closing. Members, the question is the advancement of LB 241 to E & R Initial. All in favor please vote, and opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.