

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 31, 241

ASSISTANT CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: LB 241 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 31, Mr. President, was introduced by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) Bill was read for the first time on January 9, referred to Natural Resources Committee, and reported by that committee to General File with committee amendments attached.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on LB 31.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, at the adoption of the committee amendments, LB 31 becomes primarily a cleanup bill for the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations and Licensure. There are, however, three substantive changes in the bill. The first would allow an operator of a public water system, who is certified under the Safe Drinking Water Act, to break the seal of a water well in the course of his or her employment. Keeping accurate measurements of static and pumping water levels is important to the operation of a water system, and to do so may require that the well seal be broken. The second would allow the department to include probation as a disciplinary action. This would allow the operator to stay in charge of a system with additional requirements to assure the terms of the probation are being met. Along with probation, the department could revoke probation if the requirements of probation are not followed. The department asked for this alternative so that small water systems that have a limited number of resources for water operators could be helped. The third change were recommended as a result of a review by the Environmental Protection Agency of our regulations for water operator certification. This bill adds other criteria as ways of determining operator training classification, such as the physical size of a facility, number of persons served, systems classification, source of water, treatment techniques, and the purpose and distribution complexity. We've asked Health and Human Services how many people are certified to do this kind