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Services Regulation and Licensure Division, other professionals who would be affected by these changes have been consulted and have been part of the discussions in order to arrive at this revision. LB 56 clarifies what rules and regulations that the board must approve based on the content and nature of the regulation, rather than on organizations located within the agency. Under LB 56, the board would approve all regulations within Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure that govern health care professionals. Currently, the board approves only those regulations for professionals covered by the Credentialing Division of the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure. The board is authorized, under LB 56, upon the request of Health and Human Services System Policy Cabinet, and there will be in the committee amendment some changes. We originally had language to consult. We found that it was more compatible and agreed upon by all to advise on matters pertaining to public health. Senator Jensen will introduce that in the committee amendment. Currently, the board has the authority to consult. This will be changed to advise on issues related to regulation and licensure. The liability exemption, under current law, for board members as they act as liaisons for the state is amended to be consistent with sections of law. The exemption becomes the same for board members as the liability exemption that currently exists for members of professional boards. It adds language to require board members to remain eligible for the position for which they were appointed throughout the term of their appointment, and it clarifies the eligibility requirements for both board members and professional board members. The month of the year that appointments are made to the board is changed from September 14 to August 1, and the time frame that the board officers elections are held changes from January to the last calendar quarter. As I said, there was a lot of discussion relative to these changes. They have been agreed upon. There were...there was nobody testifying in opposition to the bill. And I would ask that you amend with the committee amendments and advance LB 56. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. (Visitors introduced.) There are committee amendments as stated. Chairman Jensen of the committee, you're recognized to open on