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LB 724

center buildings are uninhabitable, and require significant expenditures of state funds for maintenance and renovation. The size and scope of the administration bureaucracy in each of the behavior health regions has significantly expanded since passage of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Act, and each regional governing board both provides behavior health services and administers state and other funds for the provision of such services. The available of community-based behavior health services in the state of Nebraska is inadequate to meet the need of such services. And many persons with behavior health disorders are committed for inpatient treatment when outpatient treatment would be clinically appropriate and less restrictive as an alternative for such persons with mental health. I want to be very clear about what LB 724 does and what it doesn't do. LB 724 is a bill that provides legislative intent for reform of the behavior health system in Nebraska, for substantive recodification of relevant statutes. It is not another study of the behavior health system. It is a specific direction for reform. The passage of LB 724 does nothing right now except express the Legislature's intent of how the behavior health system should be reformed. The key process will be the preparation of legislation for your consideration next year to implement the intent of LB 724. The purpose for this approach is to limit the discussion in this session to the big picture of reform, and seek legislative agreement on the direction that we should take. Then the details of reform will be worked out over the next year and the rest of this year. I anticipate and I pledge the widest possible input to the drafting of that legislation. The specific reform agenda I'm recommending in LB 724 is the following. With respect to the three state hospitals for mentally ill, or regional centers, the bill provides legislative intent to, one, decrease the reliance on the regional centers for...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...the inpatient treatment of behavior health disorders, and consolidate the inpatient treatment currently provided at such centers, which may include the designation of one inpatient regional center facility with a single administration and clinical staff for all regional center