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SPEAKER BROMM: Now, Senator Aguilar, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Mr. Speaker and members, crowded jails, crowded court dockets, too much substance abuse, we talk a lot about these issues. A specialized court, called a drug court, can help with all these problems. For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with the drug court, let me give you a brief explanation. And for my colleagues who are familiar with the concept, I ask your indulgence. A drug court is a program within a court that addresses the needs of substance-abusing, nonviolent offenders. It is intensively supervised by a judge, a supervising officer, and the drug court administrator, along with the prosecution and defense attorneys, a substance abuse treatment provider, employer or school, family members, and other community service providers. This is a 12- to 18-month program, keeps an adult defendant in their community, getting treatment and getting their life on track. Program time for youth offenders is 9 to 12 months. Studies have shown drug court programs to be extraordinarily effective. Graduates of these programs have a recidivism rate of only 4 to 5 percent. Drug testing, treatment, keeping a job or staying in school and staying clean are mandatory rules of the drug court program. Problems that arise are addressed immediately with consequences. This immediacy of consequences is one reason the program works. That's very important, a very important point in this, and we'll talk to this in detail because good Senator Chambers has already advised me he's coming after this bill and this is one of the reasons why and this is where we come to disagreement. I'll try to explain it and then I'm sure he'll explain more eloquently and in his own words. Frequent drug tests are a mainstay of all drug courts. If a participant fails a drug test they can be ordered to submit to more frequent testing, more drug abuse counseling, or even a limited time in jail. In an adult drug court or detention in a juvenile drug court the judge decides what consequences to use. Each drug court is designed using local resources, so each one is a little different. In central Nebraska, the sheriffs departments, the State Patrol, local police department, public defenders, county attorneys, the courts and the substance abuse treatment providers of three counties have collaborated to develop and administer their drug