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April 28, 2003 LB 724

SENATOR MOSSEY: Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of E & R amendments to LB 724.

SPEAKER BROMM: The question is the adoption of E & R amendments. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Next amendment to the bill, Mr. President, Senator Tyson, AM1222. (Legislative Journal page 1196.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the body, AM1222 is one of several amendments I have on LB 724, and this particular amendment goes to page 3 of the committee amendment and strikes paragraph (1), which reads: "Decrease reliance on the regional centers for the inpatient treatment of behavioral 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 administrative and clinical staff for all regional center operations." It goes a little further and then it renumbers (2) and it eliminate...it strikes "or elimination" from the sentence that reads: "Reinvest revenue from the reduction," now it says in the committee amendments, "or elimination of inpatient regional center services into the statewide development of community-based behavioral health" sciences (sic). And then, of course, it renumbers (3) into (2). Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I'd like to say that I have no problem with the general gist of LB 724, but I believe that in a bill that in and of itself only strikes out in a direction without making specific provision for a number of what I consider to be critical factors in mental health care, I put these amendments in to say, whoa, let's find out. Let's have a broad-based plan going to some detail before we start striking out and saying let's get rid of this, let's get rid of that. There's 60-some million dollars in the regional center's budget and if some of...some one or two of those have to be eliminated, I do not have a problem with that now and I don't intend to have a problem with it in the future. But there has to be a carefully thought-out, and I believe legislatively designated, route by which people are taken care