

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 28, 2003 LB 724

about 58, and it was growing, that all wanted to serve. I narrowed that down to about 22 and then we had people that came in and really pleaded that they must be on this committee. And to have seven members here and say that's going to be a cross-section of everyone in the behavioral health field, it just isn't so. It's going to require a lot more than that, and a lot more people. By the way, of the seven individuals, there's just one that could possibly be elected, a mayor or city administrator from each community. The others are representatives of law enforcement, of a hospital, of a health care professional, the state employee bargaining unit. We would actually be contacting all of these individuals, but to set those up as being the representatives for any changes that would be made I don't think even goes far enough. And then, as he says here in section...well, under (2), it's the intent of the Legislature that no implementing language, or excuse me, implementing legislation shall be introduced pursuant to the act until a detailed plan is developed and approved, and approved, by the Governor, the Health and Human Services Committee, the Department of Health and Human Services. No such plan shall include...or such plan shall include the following issues. Under LB 724, it is certainly our intent that we include all of this, but to start getting specific on what those items can be takes away from the nature of the bill. I don't think it's necessary. We will, like I said, if LB 724 passes, then the real work begins in meeting with all the stakeholders. Meeting with those people who are currently doing those services, as well as the stakeholders and providers within those communities, to help to develop community-based services is the intent right now in LB 724. I don't see any need for this amendment and would ask that you not support AM1415. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Johnson, on AM1415.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, members of the body, I too rise in opposition to this amendment. Get back to the same thing that we talked about just a few minutes ago. I, too, was troubled by some of the language, such as a detailed plan in place, and I think there was even some indications in the language that it had to be implemented before we closed or