

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 28, 2003 LB 724

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I did make some comments before and I did get some information as far as what our community health department is doing as far as the action taken, as far as the EPCs that had occurred in years past. What, since we have developed the crisis navigators, and this is manned 24/7, and it's manned by individuals and they screen the crisis calls. And these individuals talk to the people to see what the problem is and get some assist to the caller and, hopefully, to get some help. And this service, along with the behavioral health changes in the area, has reduced the number of individuals requiring emergency protective custody, the EPC situation. In fact, in the four-county area, only two individuals required EPC service out of 224 individuals that were...that needed help. So I think this is a situation that has really taken care of a lot of the problems. Because the people are able to talk to individuals, they know how to handle them, and they can work things out. Otherwise, they're called to the...the police department is called. They pick them up, take them to the hospital emergency room, or try to get them into some other place. And I would just like to comment how we are doing it in the East Central Health Department, how it is funded. And it is funded from these LB 692 mental health dollars, and the cost of this service in our local area is less than \$150,000 of this program. So I just wanted to give you some of the information, you know, as to what we are doing there. I commented on it earlier, but I wanted to give you some figures of which I didn't know at that time. So I've given you that and it's really surprising to me that there was only 2 out of 224 people, so that's less than 1 percent has to have the EPC. So these are the figures, and I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. There are no further lights on. Senator Jensen, did you wish to close? He waits the opportunity to close. The question before the body is, shall AM1574 be adopted to LB 724? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on adoption of AM1574, which is an amendment to LB 724. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Jensen's amendment.