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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First of all, I do support LB 906. And when it was heard in committee, I thought the testimony was very good and really laid out, in my opinion, that we do need some regulation on this particular industry. With that, there are a couple things I would like to comment on. First of all, the 6,000 hours I think is an arbitrary number and could be changed. I'm not so sure that it even needs to be there at all if we could come up with another method of grandfathering people in; maybe perhaps a period of time. If you've been in business two years, you're grandfathered in, or 18 months, or whatever figure that is I think would certainly be acceptable. The comment on Senator Chambers' amendment, that language is...follows pretty close some other language that we have in some other licensure issues; however, even that, that could possibly be left up to the rules and regulation process of the Health and Human Services Department, and they do that quite often. What I'm really saying is I appreciate Senator Bourne and his comments, and Senator Chambers too, and I would like to just offer my staff, or at least the staff of the Health and Human Services Committee, to also work together to see if we could come up with language either between now and Select File to move this forward and to also then consult with Senator Chambers and Senator Bourne on this particular issue, along with Senator Stuhr. I do, like I said, I like the concept of the bill. I don't know where we're headed in the future. People are doing things to their bodies today that we didn't see many years ago, and it seems to be kind of a shock-type statement that a lot of young people are making that I think, in the future years, they're going to regret. Many of...many of the piercings might not be so bad, but the cutting and the splitting of a tongue and so on and so forth are irreversible. Also, some of the tattoos, depending on the color and the pigmentation of your own skin, are irreversible. And so at a moment's thought to do something and then later on regret it I think is wrong, plus we really have this situation of the blood-borne diseases that we have in our society today and we need to ensure that safety is up, at the uppermost part of our regulations and licensure. So with that, I would just like to offer, first of all, the committee's staff to work on this. I think Senator Chambers, Senator