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SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I come before you with this amendment, which has included actually hours of compromise. And I want to thank Senator Bourne for his help and I also want to thank the legal counsel from Health and Human Services, Jeff Santema; also Senator Jensen. And also, we've been in contact with a number of the practitioners throughout the state and they have given us some input into this issue and I think that we have come up with an amendment that is probably a better bill than we previously had. And I'm hoping that Senator Bourne will also speak on the amendment because he has always had the concern about overregulation of this industry, and so we have tried to work to make the rules and regulations and setting some standards, not only for the facilities that body art practices are done, but also to the practitioners. And briefly what some of the changes that are found in this amendment, it still does require the licensure of body artists and body art facilities. It defines the terms and removes some unnecessary definitions. It does remove the provisions to temporary practitioners and apprentices. It does set out the requirements for licensure, which includes compliance with the Cosmetology Act and applicable rules and regulations. All practitioners must still be 18 years of age. They must have a high school diploma or equivalent education. They will have to have evidence of education, training, or experience satisfactory to the department to ensure the protection of the public, and also successful completion of an examination prescribed or approved by the board to test the applicant's competencies to perform the practice of body art for which the applicant is seeking licensure, including examinations to test the applicant's knowledge of safety, sanitation, and sterilization techniques, and infection control practices and requirements. And I think that this was one of the most important parts of the bill. The department may waive...or a portion of the examination requirement for persons engaged in the practice of body art prior to April 1, 2005, upon the submission of evidence