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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004

LB 906

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in order to get some things done, we have to stay within the rules and continue to let the process roll along. So although an amendment is being drafted by Senator Stuhr currently that will probably deal with what I'm covering in my amendment, I want to take a shot at it anyway and kind of prepare the way for hers. On page 13, in line 8, I would strike the words "completion of education." This area of the bill deals with what an applicant has to submit to the department in seeking licensure. In line 9 there is a mention of training or experience satisfactory to the department to ensure protection of the public. The training or the experience would relate to the activities involved in this profession or trade or skill. Education should not be injected in the way that it is here, because it shows that something outside of actual training, something in addition to experience is going to be required. I don't think that should be done when a person is seeking licensure in an area such as this. What the thrust of the bill is, is to ensure that a person doing these various things to or upon the person of another is knowledgeable and capable enough to avoid doing damage or harm to that individual who is the subject of these activities. So I have no problem with requiring training or experience, especially when there is other language that allows the department to waive all or a portion of the examination that is going to be required of this individual if there is evidence of sufficient skill and knowledge to make that part of the examination unnecessary. I am in favor of education. I wish everybody in this society were educated. That will never happen in any society, so I wish that the opportunity at least were made available to everybody so that we could move toward providing education for the whole populace. When we're talking about a licensure bill that is going to regulate an activity, the only thing, I believe, that can legitimately be required of a person is to show proficiency or competence in the area that the person will be licensed, and if that is done there should be no more that the state is going to demand. We're talking always, when we deal with regulation, about somebody's livelihood. A person may not know how to express himself or herself well enough to be a newscaster, but maybe that person has tremendous skill and ability in the area