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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2004 LB 599, 1069

portion. I will say that this bill comes to you with the concurrence of all the parties involved, with one small area of disagreement, and that is with the Board of Architects and Engineers, which would like to see the word "increased" changed to "modified." The difficulty with that...and they're not going to introduce that as an amendment, I understand. The difficulty that the other people, the other interested parties see is that "modified" can be a decrease as well as an increase, and they're interested primarily in increased, among other things because building has changed, methods by which buildings are put up have changed. One of the largest industries in the United States in terms of dollar volume are metal buildings. All of these--and the company that I used to be affiliated with has such a division--these are designed by registered professional engineers with adequate computer power to do anything. There is almost no limit now to the size of buildings that can be done on a preengineered basis. The net effect, I believe, of this, will that it be...it will be to encourage building, it will be to encourage economic development, it will be to the benefit of the building industry and all the people that it hires and the material men involved. And with that, I would have that as my opening. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. You've heard the opening on advancement of LB 599. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. Senator Jensen, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, you're recognized to open on AM2502.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The committee amendment, AM2502, replaces the bill as introduced. It does retain substantive provisions of the original bill, and adds provisions of LB 1069, which was introduced this year, 2004, and advanced by the Health and Human Services Committee. Sections 2-3256 and 81-3445 require the engagement of a licensed engineer and/or architect in public works projects by a natural resource district, the state, or a political subdivision that costs more than \$80,000. LB 599 and the committee amendment permit the Board of Engineers and Architects to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to increase the threshold amount. The amendment permits the board