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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2004 LB 599

to increase exemptions currently provided in the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act by rules and regs...regulations adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, such as Senator Tyson mentioned. The amendment also changes educational and experience requirements for engineers in Section 81-3451. The amendment changes the requirement of progressive experience in engineering projects to progressive post-baccalaureate degree experience. The amendment allows the board to recognize substantially equivalent curriculum to that accredited and Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology as meeting the requirement of the act. The amendment also has an emergency clause. I would ask for the adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments, offered by the Health and Human Services Committee to LB 599. We're now open for discussion on that motion. Senator Don Pederson, followed by Senators Chambers and Beutler. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, picture me with long, curly locks, and that I live in South Sioux City. Senator Engel couldn't be here today, and he asked if I would please read a statement from him in connection with this bill. Statement: I rise in support of LB 599 and AM2502. LB 599 is my priority bill this session. LB 599 is important to preserve the ability of rural Nebraska to promote economic development, by allowing the State Board of Engineers and Architects to determine whether or not a professional engineer or architect seal is required on a set of design plans. Several exemptions, set out in AM2502, provide that seals are not needed on certain-size structures or buildings or additions that will have low occupancy. These exemptions help to lower the cost of building and remodeling when there is little danger of adverse consequences. LB 599 will allow a formal negotiated rule-making process to occur. The exemption in this bill can be increased by the Board of Engineers and Architects through this rule-making process. As I said, this is extremely important to small home and business owners, to make buildings and remodels more affordable ventures throughout this exemption. I have received several letters from contractors and builders in the