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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on LB 1002.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there is what is known as the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act, and it's administered by the Department of Agriculture. So I had a conversation with the Deputy State Veterinarian and the Department of Ag Legal Counsel about clarifying the existing law to make their administration of it and regulation simpler. So since pet shops are being regulated, a clearer definition was needed as opposed to the one in the statute. So the determination was made that it would be better to simply say that a pet shop is an establishment which sells pet animals instead of having a long list of words and notions that could be embraced without lending clarity and perhaps creating some confusion. So by saying that this is an establishment which sells pet animals, it is simple and easy to understand. Since pet animals is a part of that definition, it was essential to have a more traditional definition of pet animals. Throughout the realm of regulation of animals and pets, there are even federal regulations. So instead of the term "companion animals" we will use the more conventional language "an animal kept as a household pet for purpose of companionship, which includes, but is not limited to, dogs, cats, birds, fish, rabbits, rodents, amphibians, and reptiles." Those terms are well known and have definite meanings in the trade. The third amendatory portion of this bill would address situations that you might find at an establishment like Wal-Mart where a certain area is set aside to be operated as a pet shop. Rather than have that particular bit of space used to suggest that the entire facility is subject to regulation under this pet operators act, the statute will make it clear that only that area being used as a pet shop is subject to this type of regulation. So if you have any questions, I will answer them. I've tried to be as clear as I can, but sometimes in doing that, clarity is pushed out the window. So if that has happened, I will answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Open for discussion on advancement of LB 1002, Senator Janssen.