

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004      LB 1083  
                         LR 280

CLERK:      Just one item, Mr. President, a study resolution, LR 280, by Senator Kremer, will be referred to the Executive Board.      That's all that I have.      (Legislative Journal page 1201.)

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Mr. Clerk.      (Visitors introduced.)  
Mr. Clerk, where were we when we recessed for lunch?

CLERK:      Mr. President, the next committee amendment is the fifth component, involving Section 18 of the original committee amendments.      (FA1577, Legislative Journal pages 1201-1202.)

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Mr. Clerk.      Senator Jensen, to open on FA1577.

SENATOR JENSEN:      Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature.      This is the fifth component.      It contains provisions of Section 18.      Changes proposed in LB 1083 are intended to ensure that the behavioral health reform and implemented and reform goals are achieved through intensive legislative oversight.      And so that's what this does, is it is the oversight portion.      The bill creates the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission of the Legislature, consisting of no more than 20 members appointed by the Chairperson of Health and Human Services Committee and confirmed by a majority of all members of the committee.      Members must include representations from the Legislature, consumers, consumer advocacy organizations, behavioral health providers, communities of Norfolk and Hastings, state employees, regional behavioral health authorities, mental health boards, and law enforcement; and have demonstrated an interest or a commitment and specialized knowledge, experience or expertise relating to the provisions of mental health services in the state; and be broadly represented in all behavioral health regions, in other words, represented in the entire state.      The commission is required to oversee and support implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act.      The commission, under the direction and in consultation with the committee, may employ staff, enter into contracts, engage other activities as necessary, and appropriate...and to appropriate and carry out its duties.