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March 25, 2004 LB 906

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, you're recognized to open on your motion to return LB 906 to Select File for specific amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Say, after the...LB 906, the tattoo bill or the body artist bill, went over to Final Reading, I had a call from a lady who practices tattoo artistry in my district, and she indicated that she is a 40-year-old woman who does not have either a high school diploma or a GED and she asked what are the implications of LB 906 as it relates to her, a 40-year-old woman, no high school education. And if you recall, in the bill there's a set of requirements and one of those requirements is that you have a high school degree, and I indicated to her that I felt that she would not be able to continue the practice of body artistry unless the bill was amended. And what my amendment does is simply say that the department shall waive the education requirement, the high school education or the GED, for persons already engaged in the practice of body art prior to the effective date of the act, with is April 1 of 2005, upon submission of evidence satisfactory to the department. So this woman would have to present evidence that she has been participating or engaging in the practice of body art prior to April 1 of 2005, and she would be grandfathered in as it related to her high school diploma or GED equivalency only. She would still have to...or still have to pass the other tests that is required in LB 906, and I indicated to her that I would do that and that's what I'm doing. I know Senator Stuhr, actually she'll speak for herself, I don't think she's too excited about the idea, but again she can talk about that. One thing I will say, and I don't intend to take a lot of time on this, but I did ask the Legislature's Research Division to search and they did find only 1 other state out of the 25 states that regulate the tattoo business that require a high school diploma or a GED, and that's the state of Oregon. So again, after the bill passed over, I had an individual who practiced...practices body artistry in my district call and ask me what it meant for her. I feel that she would be at a disadvantage in that she will have to get a GED prior to April 1, 2005, or she'll have to cease doing body artistry. That's my amendment. I would urge your favorable approval to