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LB 1083

appropriate practitioner within a reasonable period of time. It adopts existing standards for CADAC certification as standards for state licensure. It allows qualified persons licensed in other states to be licensed through reciprocity. It automatically licenses all current CADACs and professional CADACs in their respective categories upon the operative date of the act. And it establishes a Board of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counseling, consisting of six alcohol and drug counselors, three of whom may be licensed as psychologists or mental health practitioners, and three of whom are not licensed as psychologists or mental health practitioners, one person who is a psychiatrist, psychologist or mental health practitioner, and two public members, and provides for the terms of those appointments. This was a bill that had a full hearing before our committee. I think, without any question, the medical community and the mental health community came in, in favor of this legislation. It was introduced by the Chairman. I told him, in his behalf and for the department, that I would carry this amendment, and I would ask that AM3443 be adopted. I know there have been several questions of me relative to some of the...to a couple of little things as far as language is concerned, and certainly would defer and would answer any questions, and I know Senator Jensen would be available to answer any questions that we might have relative to the amendment also. I would yield my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. You've heard the opening on AM3443, offered by Senator Byars to LB 1083. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Jensen, followed by Senator Dwite Pedersen, and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and thank you, Senator Byars, for the introduction of this amendment. This is a very important issue. Actually, I've been in the Legislature now for ten years and we've always had this tension between CADAC and then those other drug and abuse counselors who come from the academic side. And I can recall when Senator Wesely was Chairman of the committee and we tried to work with one another to bring them together and we always had that tension back and forth--who is the better counselor, who has the better results. And last year we did a