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LB 1083

407 process. We worked through that. I would say 95 percent of the individuals on both sides of that issue are in agreement with this, and they worked very hard on that and, as a matter of fact, it came out of the 407 review with very much the same bill that you have before us. Why is it part of LB 1083? Because LB 1083 deals with substance abuse, deals with counseling on addiction, and it's very much a part of the behavioral health reform package. We have individuals that are not only on the outside, but we have those who are inside our institutions. When I'm saying institutions, I'm saying also behind bars. And so it is with that, and there's also been a shortage of these individuals, we can bring everyone together. Everyone will have a license. We had a volunteer license before. Now it will be a license that is regulated by the department. So I think it's a win-win situation. The amendment is somewhat long, but there's a recodification of so many different areas, so that's the reason it did get rather lengthy. With that, it's something that we've been working on for a number of years. It just saw fit at this time to do this to LB 1083, which is a mental health and also behavioral health reform. With that, I and Senator Byars would both be happy to answer any questions. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Further discussion? Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is a quite lengthy amendment, but with all the work that Senator Byars and Senator Jensen have talked about, I think it's a good amendment. When they talk about CADACs, that's what I do for a living. I am a CADAC. That's a certified alcoholism/drug abuse counselor. We've been under the certification. I have been certified for 22 years. Most of my work that I've done with people in trouble with the law has been as a substance abuse counselor, most commonly known as CADACs. I am not a licensed mental health worker. A lot of CADACs also have that. Some of us use tools to see if there's a psychiatric problem, and if that tool shows a problem then we'll refer them on for psychiatric counseling. This is a good bill. There is one part that I would like to ask Senator Byars about, and that is just to see if we can get some intent in here as far as the