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LB 1083

commitments and regional center patients. Secondly, I would want to comment briefly on how I see the process of implementing AM3329, that the Legislature adopted on General File. I want to again express my sincere thanks to all who worked so hard on the amendment. As you know, AM3329 was adopted on General File in response to concerns raised by some of the members. As I see it, there are four steps to the legislative approval process at it is now in LB 1083 with the addition of AM3329 and AM3560. Step one, the occupancy of the regional centers reaches 20 percent or less of its licensed psychiatric hospital bed capacity. Step two comes when the division of Behavioral Health Services notifies the Governor and the Legislature. The notice will be accompanied by verification of occupancy and a request for the Executive Board approval to transfer all remaining patients at the regional center pursuant to Section 10 of the bill, and then the closing of the regional center. Step three, the Executive Board considers the division's request. This may involve a public hearing and consultation with the Health and Human Services Committee, which Senator Engel has already discussed with the body on General File. This is something the board is already empowered to do. The Executive Board may also request additional information to assist them in consideration of their request. The Exec Board then will entertain a motion to approve the request to transfer patients and proceed with the closing of the regional center. If a majority of the votes...board votes to approve the motion, the division will then proceed with the requested transfers, pursuant to Section 10 of the bill, and closure of the regional center. It is my expectation that when notification is provided to the board, alternative services will have already been developed and the appropriateness of closing the regional center will be clear. That is what this amendment does. It does clarify a lot of issues and also makes some changes in terminology within the bill. I'd also like to mention that there's been a great deal to say about the closing of the regional centers. Those two communities have a very important role to play. Hastings and Norfolk, I both anticipate that they will still provide services within their communities and may even provide those services at the present building facilities, but they will be different. They might be community-based services. Certainly Hastings has a substance abuse center out there for young people, and matter