

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 23, 2005 LB 244, 246

SENATOR BYARS: Thanks, Senator Cudaback. Last year, in 2004, we adopted mandatory licensure for all occupational therapists who, prior to that time, had voluntary licensure. We worked with Health and Human Services to develop LB 941 last year; amended that into LB 1005 and passed it without any discussion. When the Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure began the process of drafting regulations, they interpreted the bill to require regulation be in place before an occupational therapist could use physical agent modalities. Occupational therapists who had been using those modalities for a number of years would have had to had suspend this as part of the therapeutic regimen and would have been detrimental not only to their patients' care but to their practice as well. LB 244 seeks to correct that language and would grandfather in any person who, prior to July 16, 2004, was practicing, number one, as an occupational therapist and administering physical agent modalities, or an occupational therapy assistant that was setting up and implementing superficial thermal agent modalities. A very simple bill but very, very important to make certain that we continue the very important practice in occupational therapy and serve those people who have need of those services. And I would ask that you would advance LB 244.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. You've heard the opening on LB 244. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Byars, there are no senators wishing to speak. You're recognized to close. He waives closing. Question before the body is, shall LB 244 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor of the motion vote aye; those opposed, nay. Question before the body is advancement of LB 244. Have you all voted on the issue who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 244.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 244 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 246, when you get time.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 246, a bill by Senator Johnson. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 10, referred to Health