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and Human Services Committee, advanced to General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Johnson, you're recognized to open on LB 246.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the body, this bill was brought to me by a nursing home group that pointed out a situation in our present laws that prohibit reasonable, at least reasonable to me, use of an administrator to be the administrator for more than one nursing home. What our situation was at home with the people that brought this to me was that in the city of Kearney we have one nursing home and they are associated with a nursing home in Callaway, Nebraska, which is 65 miles away. Our laws at present state that you cannot be an administrator for a nursing home more than 10 miles away, so even though these people are located on the east side of Kearney, they could not be a co-administrator for a nursing home in Gibbon, because it's 12 miles away. In researching this, what we found is that the law was put in several years ago, I believe for a case in Hebron, but the exact area doesn't really make that much difference. What the situation was is that the nursing home...there were two nursing homes who were across the street from each other in this community and it seemed beneficial to those people at that time to have a co-administrator. So the law was put in less than ten miles, which seemed like a good amount of time at that time. However, with the advent of the Internet, e-mail, faxes, cell phones, et cetera, plus just better communication and the way we do things in general with nursing homes, this now seems to be outmoded. When I visited with the people about this, I said, show me more than just your case where this was a, you know, a hardship, and indeed they had several of the different organizations that came forward. There were none in opposition to this. What it does then is this; it changes the rules or gives the board more discretion in how they do this. What we did was to change it from ten miles, and at first we said to approximately one mile. There is an amendment that goes to what we are talking about here and the amendment is because of Dr. Raymond from Health and Human Services who said, rather than make it approximately one mile...or, excuse me, one hour, said why don't you make it two hours or less, so that is included in