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tremendously successful piece of legislation on the part of this body and certainly, as testimony was brought to the Health and Human Services Committee, there is a need for the continuation of the Center for Nursing in our state. Just for some of you who might not remember, I will take just a few minutes to talk about what it is that the Center for Nursing is and does, and make you aware also that there is no fiscal note other than a cash fiscal note. This is supported by the nurses themselves, by an assessment that they pay to maintain their Center for Nursing. The activities include, not limited to, but, raise awareness of the implications of what happens with the nursing shortage in our state; they provide recruitment and development of adequate numbers of appropriate faculty, nursing faculty, to support increased enrollments in nursing programs; they do data collection on nursing supply and demand that are critical for various organizations and health facilities to be able to plan their activities and expansions; have developed models to predict future need for nurses in the state to achieve a steady, reliable supply of nurses; they provide a centralized location for coordination of recruitment and retention activities; and they also establish the infrastructure within the credentialing division of HHS Regulation and Licensure, to provide ongoing support for their activities. The committee did feel it necessary, we will have an amendment, putting the E clause into this piece of legislation. Senator Cudaback, I would certainly be open for any questions. This was unanimously moved out by the Health Committee. There were no opponents to the continuation of this...of the Nebraska Center for Nursing. I would ask you to advance LB 243, as amended.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Byars, is Senator Jensen here to introduce the committee amendments? So now you're recognized to open on them.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. The amendment, as I said, is to...AM0055, is to create the emergency clause within this piece of legislation. So I would ask that you would approve the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars, for the opening on the committee amendments, offered by the Health and Human