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LB 306

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Byars, to open on LB 306.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 306 makes three changes in the uniform licensing laws. Section 2 enables the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure to obtain information about possible criminal convictions of persons who are applying for licenses in professions which are authorized to prescribe controlled substances. These professions include physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioner. New applicants would be required to undergo national criminal background checks conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It would also require new applicants to submit a full set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Nebraska State Patrol for submission to the FBI, authorize release of the results of the background check to the department, and pay the actual cost of the fingerprinting and background check. Section 3 makes two changes to the state's mandatory self-reporting law, which applies to credentialed healthcare providers. First, it amends the requirement that credential persons report adverse judgments, settlements, or awards, to clarify that the term "settlements" encompasses only those payments on behalf of a credentialed person which result in the patient releasing a professional liability claim against a credentialed person. This change is needed to encourage credentialed persons and their insurers to deal with patients' concerns about quality of care issues, without triggering the self-reporting requirements. Section 3 adds a provision of the duty of a credentialed person to report an adverse judgment or award under the self-reporting law is satisfied if a report is submitted by a professional liability insurance company on behalf of the credentialed person. This change is needed to clarify that it is not necessary for both a credentialed person and the insurer to file duplicate reports of the same event. This bill was heard in Health and Human Services with no opposition. I would ask that you advance LB 306.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. You've heard the opening on LB 306. Open for discussion. There are no senators wishing to speak. Senator Byars waives closing. The question before the body is advancement of LB 306 to E & R Initial. All