

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2005 LB 174, 244, 246

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 244 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance LB 244 to E & R for engrossing. All in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. It is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 246.

CLERK: LB 246. Senator, no Enrollment and Review. Senator Jensen would move to amend with AM0763. (Legislative Journal pages 815-816.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on AM0763 to LB 246.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. And I have reviewed this with the sponsor of LB 246, Senator Johnson, and I'll even relinquish some of my time to him. LB 174 is a bill that was advanced out of the Health and Human Services Committee that deals with the upper limits of licensure fees. And in 2003, through LB 415, we...back when we were having our budget crunch, we recognized that we were subsidizing licensing fees as much as 50 percent. And through that passage of that bill, we said that licensing fees should be self-supporting to the rules and regulation. We are now at a point where we are now going to have to dip into General Funds if we don't increase the licensing fees. So what this bill does is...this is LB 174, that was passed in our Health Committee. And if you wanted to bring that up on your gadget, you sure could. But LB 174 raises the upper limits, gives the department authority to raise those limits, but not beyond that upper limit, so that we are self-supporting in those fees, and we're not dipping into the General Funds. That is what the bill does. I would be glad to relinquish some of my time to Senator Johnson, who is a sponsor of LB 246.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Jensen. I am very much in favor of this amendment that Senator Jensen has proposed. What this is, is just changing the fee structure, or the allowable fee structure, that has been