

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 30, 2005 LB 551

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Good afternoon. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to convene. Senators, please check in. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, do you have any items for the record?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Not at this time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. We are now on General File, 2005 committee second priority bills. Mr. Clerk, LB 16...I'm sorry, we did that one. LB 551.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 551 was introduced by Senator Jensen. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 18, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File. There are committee amendments attached. (AM0695, Legislative Journal page 748.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Jensen, to open on LB 551.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. LB 551, yes, is the second priority bill of the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill relates to behavioral health services and the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act. The act was passed in LB 1083 last year. And LB 551 updates the act with two changes. First, the bill deals with consumer representation on the state advisory committees, and the State Behavioral Health Council. It requires that at least three appointed...three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services be consumers of substance abuse services; and at least three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services be consumers of problem gambling or addiction services. The bill also requires at least two members appointed