

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2005

LB 709

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: AM1028 to AM0772 is withdrawn. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Erdman would move to amend with AM1049. (Legislative Journal page 1091.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Erdman, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, AM1049 is before you as a result of discussions that have been ongoing after the advancement of LB 709, and specifically with conversations with Senator Beutler, which I have greatly appreciated. The goal of AM1049 is to further clarify the process and to ensure discussion, specifically from groups who would be affected or who could help us direct the decisions that could be made in regards to reforming a plan of Medicaid for the state of Nebraska. Section 6 is inserted into the committee amendment which would create the Medicaid Reform Advisory Council. The council would consist of five individuals who are appointed by the Governor, and five individuals who are appointed by the Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature. The council shall consist of individuals from each of the following classes: health-care providers, that's the first class; the second class is health-care consumers and consumer advocates; the third class would be business representatives; the fourth class, insurers; and the fifth class would be elected officials. The language that is there is similar to what is found on a national level as far as the classes of individuals that would be requested to be a part of a discussion on this same issue. The council shall meet monthly with the persons who are designated under Section 6 of the committee amendment. These are the designees of the Governor and the Chairperson of the Health Committee who will be responsible for directing the work plan. Those individuals will meet with this council. The council will review the monthly reports that are outlined in the committee amendment and, prior to those committee...to those reports becoming public, any comments or the minutes, excuse me, of those meetings with this council shall be included. Let me reiterate that. The minutes of the meeting of the advisory council shall be included in the monthly report that is submitted. And why is that important?