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AM0816.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I come before you today to introduce AM0816, which would add several provisions from the body art statute. And I did speak with Senator Jensen before introducing this amendment. First of all, the proposal would add a body art representative to the Board of Cosmetology. And I feel that it is important that this industry has representation on this board, as there currently are no board members who fully understand the complexity of the practices of body art. The second provision would increase the number of board members required in a quorum in routine business matters from six to seven members. It also increases the number of professional members required for a quorum in matters requiring professional judgment of competency or standards of professional conduct from five to six. Requires six board members instead of five to call a meeting of the board, other than regularly scheduled times. Some of these provisions were brought by the Health and Human...to the Health and Human Services Committee by the Board of Health. And the final provision proposed in this amendment was brought at the request of the body art industry. And it prohibits body artists from performing a tattoo, brand, or permanent color technology procedure on anyone under the age of 18. It would also prohibit them from performing a body piercing on anyone under the age of 16, with the exception of earlobes. I agreed to introduce this legislation because I continue to feel that young adolescents especially are unaware of the potential health consequences of unprofessional practices and their long-term effects. From the amount of mail and phone calls that I have had regarding this issue, I do believe that there are some individuals who do take advantage of our youth when it comes to tattooing, piercing, and branding. And I briefly wanted to take just a moment to share with some of the new members the body...of the body, the history of my involvement in this legislation. And in 1997, there were several parents who contacted me regarding their young daughters getting tattoos from a practitioner in his home. And so I started introducing legislation at that time. And last year, then, we passed the licensing of the body art practitioners. And I've always had in mind the safe...health and safety issues particularly associated with this work. And I appreciate the