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LB 542

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Jensen. I know that your intent is to put some health professionals on this committee, and...in terms of weighing the tax burden or what have you. How many hospitals do we have in the state; do you know?

SENATOR JENSEN: Eighty-five, I believe.

SENATOR SMITH: Eighty-five. And how many of those are for-profit hospitals?

SENATOR JENSEN: There is only one for-profit hospital in Nebraska.

SENATOR SMITH: In Nebraska.

SENATOR JENSEN: That I'm aware of.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, and so...now you don't specify what type of healthcare professional. It could be a physician who might bring the perspective of a certain tax bracket to the table, but that would suffice for the...for the sake of the amendment?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. And I'm...I've kind of followed where Senator Burling was on his original bill, before the Revenue Committee made the change. He did...there was somebody from the health sector, and that's what he described, health sector, in the original bill.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: And I'm just putting that back in, from where the Revenue Committee took it out.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, and your objective is to add to the committee, not necessarily...and you're advocating for the bill; is that right? Or is this just a way to...

SENATOR JENSEN: No, I do advocate for the bill, and I did not do this as turf protection at all. I did it for...I really thought that a sector that's taking 36 percent of the state