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LB 256, 338

clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, or nurse practitioners will be licensed as advanced practice registered nurses. Essentially, APRN will become an umbrella term for these four certifications. This bill also defines the scope of practice for clinical nurse specialists, something that has not yet been done by statute. There is no intention to change the current scope of practice for CNSs. No major changes have been made to the scope of practice for other nurses either. Current APRNs are affected in name only in this bill. The language is simply changed to nurse practitioners. Currently, there are different advisory boards that provide governance for each of the different advanced practice roles. Each of these boards has a different relationship with the Board of Nursing, the Board of Medicine and Surgery, and the Board of Health. In the case of nurse midwives, there is no clear advisory process at all. LB 256 eliminates this confusion and creates an independent board that will oversee all advanced practice nurses as one group. Membership on the board will include representatives from all four APRN certifications, physicians, and public members. This is a bill I strongly believe in. Advanced nurses deserve to be recognized for their expertise and to be regulated by a board that is familiar with their needs and special areas of practice. Many people have put many, many hours into this bill over the last few years. I hope you will take into consideration the process this bill has gone through and the many people who have been consulted, including the Medical Association. This idea is not new and I hope this year, now that all parties involved have agreed to this version of the bill, we can see it come into fruition. As you can see on your committee statement, the Nebraska Medical Association was the only group to oppose this bill in committee. The committee amendment settles any disagreement the Medical Association has with this bill. They have come on board with us. They are in full support of LB 256 with the committee amendment. I strongly oppose the adoption of amendments AM0841 and AM0842, which will be introduced and discussed by Senator Smith. These amendments contain contentious issues that were included in LB 338, which was killed this year by the Health and Human Services Committee. But in discussing with Senator Smith, he is going to visit with about...us about these bills, the amendments, and then he agrees