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FLOOR DEBATE

June 2, 2005

LB 272, 709, 761A
LR 9

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 761A passes. That completes that portion of the agenda, being Final Reading. We now go to legislative resolutions. Mr. Clerk, do you have any items for the record or announcements?

CLERK: I have nothing at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now go to LR 9.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 9 was originally introduced by Senator Cunningham and others. It's found on page 144 of the Legislative Journal. The resolution was referred to Reference, who in turn referred it to Health and Human Services Committee for hearing. Resolution was reported back to the Legislature for further consideration by the Health and Human Services Committee, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, on LR 9.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. LR 9 would urge the U.S. Congress to amend the Social Security Act by deleting May 14, 1993, as the deadline for approval by states of certain long-term care partnership plans. The purpose of the long-term care partnership program is to provide incentives for purchase of long-term care insurance by allowing individuals who exhaust qualified private long-term care policy benefits to protect an equivalent value of assets and still meet Medicaid's financial eligibility requirements. In conjunction with LR 9, I also introduced LB 272, which was amended into LB 709, which was passed just a little while ago. It requires the Nebraska Health and Human Service System and the Department of Insurance, in consultation with Health and Human Services Committee, to prepare a plan for a long-term care partnership program in Nebraska by December 1 of 2005 to be used in the event that this federal restriction is rescinded. I introduced LR 9 and LB 272 after researching legislation passed in Indiana that allows a policyholder to protect their assets by purchasing and using an Indiana partnership policy. A policyholder's assets are disregarded during the Medicaid eligibility process and should they need Medicaid assistance after exhausting their