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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Aguilar, I guess you're the one I'd like to ask a question. Maybe Senator Jensen would have some comments. But as we were debating about this over the last several minutes, I had a question. What constitutes a serious violation, I guess you'd call it, in cleaning up rooms? I understand that it is common to do it in motel rooms and other things. It's in the walls, it's in the rugs. What's going to constitute the risk and the danger that this bill would come into play? Is there a way to assess that or measure that?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Aguilar, would you yield?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes, there is, and that's a very good question. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. And that's what Health and Human Services is working on right now. They're going to develop some standards through a testing procedure that can tell when contamination still exists within that property. And if it doesn't pass muster with those specific standards, then it is listed as a contaminated property and clean-up procedures must be in place at that time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Do you have any guess or discussion on what level this would be, because I understand it's quite common, to a risk of all of us going into a motel room that would have had meth made in it, or you have children crawling across the rug and so forth.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Well, the level of toxicity, of course, depends upon how long it has been used as a meth lab; in other words, like if it's just one cook in there, the degree of contamination wouldn't be as severe as if they've been cooking in there for a month, as you can well imagine.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Um-hum.

SENATOR AGUILAR: There's many documented cases throughout the state of Nebraska where young children have been put into foster care and have been tested and actually tested positive for methamphetamine use. And that's simply from being around that environment, not because they took the drug, simply being around