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FLOOR DEBATE

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wouldn't know what I was looking at if I did (laugh)--but if an offender is going to be released, the city or county where they are going back to, if they are still a threat to society, they will be notified when they are moving into that county or city. Well, my question is, if they felt as though they were a threat, why would they be released? Now did I hear you right on that?

SENATOR BOURNE: Yeah, that's a great question, and what you're talking about is the current system. What we were kind of surprised to discover when we started researching this is, say, today an individual goes to jail for...and we found this also during our studying of the issue, is a person goes to jail for first-degree sexual assault on an average of nine years, say, which seems to be a little bit low, but that's another issue. Say that individual goes to jail for first-degree sexual assault of a child, serves their sentence for nine years, whatever it may be. If the Department of Corrections, under current law, determines that that individual is a danger to society, they will call the county attorney, say, from Douglas County, wherever that individual came from, and say, Mr. X is leaving jail on April 1, we recommend...and there would be more notice than that, say June 1; we recommend that you begin civil commitment hearings against him because he is still a danger to society, in our opinion. If that county attorney, under current law, is busy or somehow the letter gets lost or the ball is dropped in any way, come June 1, Mr. X just leaves the prison if the state or that county attorney did not begin civil commitment hearings. So what we're advocating for today is that the county attorney from where that individual comes still receives notice of it, but at the same time the Attorney General does. And if that county attorney from where the individual came decides, for whatever reason, not to pursue civil commitment hearings, the Attorney General would still have that option, so that I think we closed a significant loophole under LB 1199, as amended.

SENATOR JANSSEN: So you...essentially, you have...that perpetrator has two hoops that he has to jump through. If the local entity does not do anything about it, the Attorney General will. Is that correct?

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. As a matter of fact, the way the bill