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April 3, 2006 LB 1248

ten individuals that worked very hard and listened to those concerns before bringing to you LB 1248. That will conclude my opening on the bill. And I'll be prepared to open on the committee amendments right after. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments to LB 1248. Senator Jensen, as Chairman of the committee, you're recognized to open on AM2831, Health and Human Services.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. AM2831 rewrites the first 11 sections of LB 1248 as introduced. And it actually tries to answer many of the questions that were asked by those who appeared at the various public hearings and to the committee also that was formed. LB 1248, as introduced, adds six new sections. The sections are intended to address four primary objections to the green copy of LB 1248: one, too much direction being given to the department; two, insufficient legislative oversight and policy direction; and the Medicaid Reform Plan should be more explicitly reflected in the bill; and four, certain repealed or stricken provisions should be reinstated. And so to answer that, Section 1 incorporates the new sections of the Medicaid (sic) assistance act. Section 2 provides purposes for the Medicaid (sic) assistance act. Section 3 establishes the Medicaid (sic) assistance program known as Medicaid. Section 4 adds legislative findings. Section 5 revives public policy provisions in the green copy of the bill. And Section 6 provides the state of Nebraska assents to all applicable provisions of federal law and incorporates federal law by reference as it existed April 1, 2006. Section 7 adds new definitions to the bill. Section 8 revises duties of the department in administering...administrating the Medical Assistance Program. The department is required to submit a biennial summary, an analysis of the Medicaid (sic) assistance program for the legislative and public review. A draft report is due no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year. The Medicaid Reform Council is required to conduct a public hearing and provide recommendations regarding the draft report. And the final report is due no later than December 1 of each numbered (sic) year. Section 9 adds new provisions. All existing rules and regulations, Medicaid state plan amendments,