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LB 1248

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Jensen, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Pederson, were you done? I would be glad to...I'll certainly allow Senator Beutler to carry on the dialogue if you so wanted to at this time. There was the Nebraska Medicaid Reform Plan presented to the Legislature and the Governor December 1, 2005. And it's again one of those reports that we all get and we put on our desk and sometimes don't take a look at it. But it is really a wealth of information. It has how the commission, the 10-person commission, reacted; what their findings were; and what they brought forth back in the form of recommendations. And it was those recommendations that really formed then the nucleus of LB 1248. But, Senator Beutler, if you want to continue in a dialogue, I'd sure be happy to do so.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Jensen, thank you. Let me go back to trying to understand the underlying authorities that are parceled out in this bill. I think I'm correct in saying that with regard to most, if not all, well, all Medicaid benefits they're either given and they're by virtue of a statute that this Legislature put in place...

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or by rule and regulation pursuant to either implied or explicit authority we gave to the department.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Now under this bill, with respect to anything that can be done by rule and regulation by the department under current law, I assume they can continue to do that under this bill; that the executive branch authority that exists besides the statute, or under current interpretations of the statute, could currently allow the executive branch to do a variety of things right now. Would that be accurate?