

Health and Human Services Committee

LB 706

January 17, 2017

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Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Riepe, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Thomas Williams (T-H-O-M-A-S W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S) and I am the Director of the Division of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I am here to testify in support of LB 706 which was part of LB 343, the Governor's Occupational Licensing Reform Legislation Package during 2017. Thank you, Senator Kolterman, for introducing this bill and working with the Department.

LB 706 proposes to remove the definition of "electrology establishment" from the statute. While Nebraska currently licenses electrologists who provide permanent hair removal services, there is no statutory authority to license an electrology establishment.

In addition, the statute currently requires applicants for an electrologist license to complete a program of studies that includes 600 hours and 600 credits. LB 706 proposes to remove the 600 credits from the training program requirements. The credits were intended to account for various practical services or theory instruction that students would complete as part of their training; however, these credits make up the 600 hours of training. This change eliminates confusion and outdated language but maintains the 600-hour requirement to assure that applicants have appropriate training and education to obtain an electrologist license in Nebraska.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We believe LB 706 will help DHHS continue our mission of helping people live better lives. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.