

February 21, 1973

LB 249

(Start Belt #3)

ASSISTANT CLERK: Reading.

SPEAKER: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall the bill pass.

ASSISTANT CLERK: I move to return to select, LB 249 to select file for the attached specific amendment. Signed Senator Wiltse.

SPEAKER: Senator Wiltse.

SENATOR WILTSE: The reason for the return of this is for the changing of a few words in compliance with the suggestion of several of the body, in line 1, insert not less than, after of, insert not more than five thousand dollars, as determined by the governing body. This changes the requirement from five thousand dollars, policy for firemen, to two thousand dollars as it has been heretofore, and the privilege under the jurisdiction of the governing body to make it up to five thousand if it is so desired.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion, Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I rise to oppose to the moving the bill back to amended. If I'm not correct, I hope somebody will correct me, that it costs about approximately ten dollars a year in order to insure these volunteer firemen under the law that now exists. Now if you make this discretionary on the part of many of these districts as to whether to give two or five, if the districts have their way they wouldn't give them anything. Now this is a good bill, these volunteer firemen provide a service that no one else is able to give, because of circumstances, they get no other remuneration at all, except the benefits of this term of life insurance policy. Now it would seem to me to take this down to an impossible low level, and bearing in mind that the cost is almost nothing, is certainly not desirable at this particular time, and I move that we leave the bill like it is and pass it.

SPEAKER: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I wonder if Senator Carpenter would yield to a question?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Certainly.

SENATOR MURPHY: I dislike bringing up an amendment at this late date to your bill, but I have since it's enactment been contacted by people at home and in our rural area, I think our rescue unit people, who are almost identical with our fire, volunteer firemen, probably in service oftener than the firemen, and we do have in several areas, women not meaning to upstage Senator Proud, but we do have women who serve on these rescue units, as trained personnel, medical personnel and I wonder if the bill, if it is restated, could be stated to include fire and rescue personnel.

SENATOR CARPENTER: To exclude.

SENATOR MURPHY: To include, fire and rescue personnel rather than just firemen.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well I think that Senator Maresh has a bill on the particular subject, which I want to amend to make it mandatory, as long as you brought the subject up, that they have these areas either in the voluntary or in the city paid, either by contract or by performance, and that they be equipped not only with adequate equipment but with personnel, in order to save the lives of these people they're called to in order to take care of them. I just listened this morning on television