

would urge you to put the E clause on and I think you can separate that issue from the abortion issue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the adoption of the emergency clause to LB 125. All those in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the amendment is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz to explain the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Members of the Legislature, LB 125 as introduced by Senator Dworak, Senator Higgins and myself provides that no group health insurance or health maintenance agreement purchased in whole or in part with public funds shall include abortion and its basic or major medical coverage. This bill does not restrict coverage for an abortion necessary to prevent the death of the mother or coverage for medical complications arising from an abortion. LB 125 does not prevent a public employee from contracting for abortion coverage if the costs of such coverage are borne solely by that employee. Last year Senator Don Dworak and myself cosponsored LB 891. That bill is the same as the one we are considering today. LB 891 was heard by this committee, by this Legislature in 1980 and placed on General File. Because of the great number of bills which were before the Legislature and the short time available LB 891 was buried on General File and was never considered by the full Legislature. However, we did consider and pass an amendment introduced by Senator Dworak to LB 1004, an Appropriations bill, which stated it was the intent of the Legislature for the period of July 1, 1980, to June 30, 1981, that no funds appropriated to the Department of Personnel for purposes of purchasing a contract of group health insurance or health maintenance agreements shall be used to provide coverage for abortion except that the insurer may offer individual employees special coverage for abortion and the cost of such coverage shall be borne solely by the employee. This limitation did not apply to coverage for an abortion which was verified in writing by the attending physician as necessary to prevent the death of a woman or to coverage for medical complications that arise from an abortion. The difference between the intent language of LB 1004 and this bill, LB 125, is that the scope is broadened to all insurance groups paid for in whole or in part with public funds, and I might add that at the