

January 7, 1982

LB 274

what I believe to be the value of the bill in comparison to the arguments given by Senator Higgins. Her argument is essentially if you don't improve each and every line of insurance and each and every insurance agent in the state, you should not then try to strive for greater professionalism by those agents and lines who are presently agreeing to and asking us for continuing education to upgrade themselves and their lines of insurance. If you have, as you have in this case a great many independent insurance agents wishing to upgrade their own education, wishing to improve the professionalism of their occupation, I think we should respond to that, and the technical amendments of the committee make that clearer as does the bill itself. I hope the body will support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 274. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The committee amendments are adopted. We are now on the bill itself. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, do you want to go ahead then and discuss the bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: Let me just explain several of the sections of the bill and talk about its provisions. Section 1 is the purpose. Section 2 are the definitions and who is covered. Section 3 are the exemptions and we just talked about those. We are talking now about a bill that applies to independent brokers and agents, agents in the life insurance area, annuities, variable annuities, and we are not talking about health insurance, credit accident or credit life insurance. The requirements imposed essentially are 6 hours per line of insurance every two years up to a maximum of four lines or in other words a total maximum of 24 hours of education every two years and that would be for an agent who is writing four lines or more of insurance. The education must be approved by the Department of Insurance and as a remarkable step to placate the fears of insurance agents, the Department of Insurance even prior to the passage of LB 274 has prepared and published its proposed rules in the event the rule making authority is granted under 274 to authorize these kinds of examinations. The Insurance Department has already issued a tentative