

February 8, 1982

LB 764

of workmen's compensation. One note of explanation, in the hearing conducted by the Business and Labor Committee a question was raised as to whether the bill includes owner-operated motor carriers and it is the intent of the committee as introducer of the bill and the terms of the bill on its face should be reasonably construed to include such individuals within the provisions of LB 764. Accordingly, such individuals and similar self-employed persons are to be afforded the same option to be treated as employees for the purpose of workmen's compensation benefits. LB 764 is a very rare bill in that it is simple. It has no cost to anyone and it is optional. It is not mandatory but it does offer an alternative to those individuals or self-employed persons who wish workmen's compensation coverage. I would move that LB 764 be advanced to E & R Initial.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Barrett a question. It seems to me like that a good many small businesses, partnerships and so forth asked to be left out of this insurance just a few years ago. Have they changed their minds on it and that they want to come in now or want the ability to come in if they vote for it?

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes, there are a goodly number of them, Senator Rumery, who do want that option. Yes.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Senator Barrett a question also. Workmen's compensation's premiums are paid a hundred percent by the employer, right?

SENATOR BARRETT: That is correct.

SENATOR NICHOL: Why would they want to be included in this when they are only covered during their working hours or during their working activity and I would think employers would want to have more complete coverage and that is the first question.

SENATOR BARRETT: Oh, that was the first question, Bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: That is the first question.

SENATOR BARRETT: There are some who do very definitely want