

March 7, 1989

LB 224

SENATOR McFARLAND: Yes, I would be glad to. Quite frankly, the amendments that were offered before by Senator Chambers were defeated and justifiably should have been. This bill has been drafted by an ad hoc committee of the Bar Association. A number of attorneys have been over it, a number of attorneys have helped prepare it. I have helped prepare that. There have been a number of acts like this passed in other states. I think we said there were 13 states that had similar acts like this. The language is modeled after many of those acts. Quite frankly, I don't think this bill needs many amendments, if any, and I will tell you this. Between now and Select, I will review the criminal penalty aspects of the bill, and if there are any problems or any ways that we can improve it, it will be done. If anyone has specific amendments that they want to suggest to me or specific questions they want answered, I would be glad to do that, and we can do that off the floor or we can do it in conversation at any time, but I resent the process whereby people start writing up amendments and filing them on the floor of the Legislature when one never knows what the impact of an amendment will be. When you add an amendment or when you try to change a bill, you need some time to study it, and to just throw an amendment in, and then say, what is your reaction to it when you haven't read the amendment in the context of the whole bill is a very poor way to legislate. The proper way is to submit the amendments in committee. This is something that could have been done in committee and was not. The proper way is to submit the amendments ahead of time so they are published in the Journal and can be read and studied, and not be just throwing them into the hopper and no one has even a chance to know what they are voting on at the time the amendment is offered. So I would urge advancement of the bill. I hope there are enough people that haven't left, I appreciate your staying here after noon to do this, advance it. If there are any problems, we will take them up on Select, and then on Select, if you don't agree with the concept of the bill, you can vote against it. If you do think it is a good concept to protect athletes, you can vote for it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote if you care to. Senator McFarland, yes.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Could we just have a...is the house under call right now?