

this point LB 575. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Lamb and members of the body, I wasn't going to speak on this but I think it's...Senator Barrett has brought us a good bill here dealing with Professional Practice Commission and strengthening it. I guess my thing is that...and Senator Withem mentioned about dentists and we had a problem, I think a local, kind of a local problem with dentists and talking to some of my local dentists, they really thought that they should be...rather than the Department of Health, should be in charge of fellow dentists and so maybe we need to move in that particular way, maybe talk to people in the Health Committee or something. But I think what Senator Barrett is...but I think maybe we should look at also the other professions that we...in this state and maybe treat them the same way, let dentists look at the conduct of a dentist and so forth. So, with that, I just will vote to support the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President, and fellow senators, Senator Barrett has brought a concern to the Legislature that is certainly a legitimate one. The present process under the Professional Practices Commission is fraught with potential abuse and has been...and that process has been abused at certain times. It has been abused to a degree in that some complaints, legitimate complaints have not been filed because of the expense required to bring a complaint before the PPC and there are situations where a parent or a complaining party just cannot afford to bring that complaint even if that complaint may be legitimate and he is exactly right on that. There has been abuse, on the other hand, of complaints that have been brought to the PPC by very vindictive and very irrational people who bring frivolous charges or, if not frivolous charges, very select and emotional charges against particular teachers that may, in fact, be completely without merit. The problem that has occurred is when some of these people bring these wild allegations against teachers they are able to circulate their complaint and they have circulated their complaint since they have access to the complaint and they have sent it to various school boards and to various places of employment to try and