

so that we can retain services for people that need them and for people to be able to meet liabilities that are going to be required by the federal government by April of 1990 and so that they can prove their liabilities and be able to get the insurance that the federal government requires. So the bill that we're trying to pass is prospective in that regard. On the other hand, we have the obligation that Senator Warner has brought out to people that have been trying to comply with a law that we've had since 1986. Our policy is going to have to be set here some way and I'm not sure how we can address the retroactive, or the retroactive part that Senator Warner addresses. My suggestion might be that we would pass the bill without the amendment and see if we can put together a solution to the retroactive part over the interim and introduce a bill to that effect at the first part of January of next year. Senator Schmit, Senator Schmit...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR ELMER: ...were you listening to my proposal? Senator Schmit, I was making the suggestion that perhaps we would pass the amendment that you have offered without the Warner amendment and address the retroactive problem by drawing a bill to that effect over the summer and introducing it the first of next session. Do you think something like that might be possible?

SPEAKER SCHMIT: Well, it has been my experience, Senator Owen Elmer, on the floor here that the fewer people who are involved in a problem, the greater difficulty you have getting it addressed, getting a majority of votes on the floor here. If there were 700 people involved here, I would guess we'd have a pretty good chance, but if there are 25 or 30, then I don't know if that group can put together the votes. It's a little bit like the Commonwealth problem. If that covered the entire state equally and equitably, it would have probably been addressed a long time ago, but if you only have a small number, I don't think there will be a great deal of urgency. I think we could probably bring to the floor a bill, Senator, but whether or not we could get the 25 votes on the floor, it would be in my estimation, rather doubtful.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you. Senator Warner, do you have an opinion about that thought?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner, would you respond.