

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, will you handle the amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: I will. As I recall, Mr. Clerk, we had an amendment that was divided in half. We adopted half of the amendment. Senator Withem offered a floor amendment to the second half of an amendment to LB 279. Is that the portion that we now are referring to?

CLERK: Well, Senator,...

SENATOR LANDIS: Let me approach the Chair and just take a look at the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Certainly.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis is correct. We had divided the amendment. The first portion had been adopted, I believe, by the body. The second portion was under consideration. Senator Withem then offered an amendment to that amendment. That amendment is now pending.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, just to get a couple of things in the record here. When this amendment was being considered on the floor we were discussing service contracts. It aroused my interest and we had a fairly lively debate on the whole subject. Since that time I've had an opportunity to learn a little bit more about the service contract statute. Some years ago the Legislature passed a statute regulating service contracts as if they were insurance. Then it appears, historically, I don't know whether at that time or throughout the years we have basically amended that statute by exemption. We have exempted almost anybody. As a matter of fact, if this amendment of mine were to pass, as I read it in its full context, it would say everybody that sells a service contract shall be regulated, except anybody that sells a service contract. We would effectively negate the whole situation, if this were to go through. In some discussions with people that are in this business it...I, personally, have come to the conclusion that we need some regulation of service contracts, that the current standard of regulation probably went a little bit too high, a little bit too tough to meet; we probably exempt way too many people, and that we should probably do a study on this issue and