

sought to be accomplished by 542 and our medical malpractice statutes can, in fact, be carried out. I would urge the adoption of these committee amendments and then I'm sure Senator Lindsay will explain the bill and you'll be asked to vote on its advancement. I ask for the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments, Senator Lindsay. Senator Lindsay, excuse me, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR LINDSAY: I think Senator Landis has adequately explained the amendments. I think they are good amendments. They clean the bill up a little bit. I would also urge their adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Landis, anything further? Thank you. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 542. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote if you'd care to vote. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Lindsay, would you care to explain the bill as now amended.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, this bill has been...the bulk of it has been adequately explained by Senator Landis. I think rather than repeating what he has said, I would just add to it a couple of things that may not have been set forth. This does not cause any problems to any claimant. They will still...the same people who would have paid the claimant are still going to be paying the claimant. It's just a matter of eliminating a middle man, that being the insurance company who receives the payment from the Medical Center just for the purpose of processing the claim. Additionally, I think it's important to note that the insurance company also requires a letter of credit for each year that there is exposure possibility. That letter of credit must be a million dollars for each year. Those cost anywhere from 30 to \$40,000 a year for that letter of credit. They also require that these be cumulative, that these letters of credit cumulate and they can have up to six years of letters of credit. For