

January 14, 1992 LB 27

time on January 10th of last year, was referred to the Government Committee. They report the bill to General File with committee amendments attached, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam Chairman and members of the body, I am privileged that Senator Conway chose this morning to be absent because this is one of the more difficult amendments that you're going to have to deal with in this session and it is simply adding a word on page 2 of the bill which says that no fire department shall knowingly purchase any item of clothing or equipment. The key here is the addition of the word "knowingly". And the reason the committee added this was that we really wanted to keep Senator Bernard-Stevens' bill from going on consent calendar. It actually gives relief to the fire company that inadvertently buys a nonrated piece of equipment or clothing. So, with that, I would simply move that we add the word "knowingly" in that second paragraph of Section 1. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Does anyone wish to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, we will now vote on the motion to adopt the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to open on the bill.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. The bill would prohibit any fire department from purchasing firefighter protective clothing or equipment that does not meet minimum standards established by the National Fire Protection Association. It would also prohibit any person from selling firefighter protective clothing or equipment that does not meet the national standards and it also sets the violation of...the latter prohibition being a Class 3 misdemeanor. There was no opposition, as Senator Schimek said, in the committee. It looked like it was going on consent calendar until the committee, in its infinite wisdom, decided to add one word, "knowingly", which they could have knowingly done on Select File