

January 14, 1992 LB 27

but decided to do it then. So, consequently, the Speaker was gracious and put it on Speaker priority so it could come up for discussion, otherwise it was set for another year. This is the same bill that was sitting two years ago but never quite got to the floor because it was not prioritized. And I would appreciate it if the body could lend its support and move the bill onward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I will now recognize Senator Cudaback, followed by Senator Withem, Wickersham and Beutler. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President and members, being an active fireman myself, I know the many hazards that we have no control over. If we can control this knowingly, I think we should and I am in support of LB 27, the merely fact that we have many volunteers and they do need all the protection they can get. I'd ask you to support this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I have a question for Senator Bernard-Stevens in reading the language here. It says no fire department shall purchase any item of clothing or equipment intended to protect firefighters from death or injury while fighting fires. What happens if they purchase this equipment when they're not fighting fires, Senator Bernard-Stevens? Is it okay then if they... I guess it's okay if they do that. "While fighting fires" is that a clause that modifies when they can purchase or what the material is intended for?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Withem, I appreciate your connotations of reading the language and whether it's a modify or not. I suspect it is a modifier and I suspect that we owe John Cavanaugh a great deal of gratitude because of comments like this. He, at some point, had the wisdom to hire you and get you out of the education field so that we could proceed in a nicer fashion. But I appreciate you bringing this to the attention and I do think we're covered on that basis.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to briefly say that I support wholeheartedly this legislation. I