

aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the committee amendments? Have you all voted on the committee amendments to LB 353? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Beyer, I will recognize you for opening on your bill.

SENATOR BEYER: Thank you, Madam President and members. LB 353 is a bill I have been working on for a long time now. When this bill was first brought to me about five years ago, I admit that I had never really thought too much about what private investigators were allowed to do, and what sort of licenses they were required to have. My impression, as I am sure many of yours are, were formed by TV images of PIs and occasionally unflattering reports in the newspapers. I was surprised to learn that at the present time anyone can go on over to the Secretary of State's Office and apply to be a private investigator. If you have no criminal history, are bondable, and otherwise a living, breathing person, you, too, can be a private investigator. You don't need to have any training, education, or background in investigations. Just hand over a fee and you can do investigations, including surveillance in domestic disputes, looking for missing persons, computer fraud, corporate undercover work, theft investigation, arson investigations, murder investigations, workman's compensation claims, accident reconstruction, and several other areas of broad investigative services. Now most people don't know the difference between a private investigator and a police investigator when confronted with somebody flashing an ID badge, and an unscrupulous investigator can and has ruined the reputations of many. Private investigators, and plainclothesmen detectives, who are now well trained, conscientious, and professional in their approach do a legitimate investigation, but those borderline undesirables have made it difficult for all professionals in the business, and this bill is an attempt to set some modern day standards. These statutes have been on the books for about 25 years, and as you are all well aware, the nature of private investigation has changed drastically in that time period. We have worked for the past several years with private investigators, associations, the Secretary of State's Office and others and believe that this bill, as amended, will address many of the concerns that have come up regarding