

CLERK: LB 86, a bill introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to the Banking Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Well, Senator Landis, we get to hear from you again. I understand, but I'm pleased we'll get to hear from you.

SENATOR LANDIS: I know I was running on thin ice with the Speaker there for cluttering up his schedule with legislative matters. This is as my capacity as Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee Chairman reporting to you an amendment made to LB 86. LB 86 allows for disbursements of self-insurance plans for the cost of employee wellness programs. And there was some concern that we make sure this be absolutely clearly permissive but not an obligation. Senator Witek raised the point that this was not to be seen as a burden or a mandate but could only be seen as a permissive act, and Senator Wesely said that was his intention and he wanted to make sure that was crystal clear. So what we agreed to on page 2, at the very bottom, was that the general language in the area would change from shall to may, so that in subsection 4 it would read, disbursements from the Restricted and Segregated Fund, this is the self-insurance fund that a city has, established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, may be made only for the following expenses, and by changing shall to may, we want to make it crystal clear for the record that any wellness program is purely voluntary and purely permissive and not mandated by state obligation. That's the purpose of the amendment and I would urge its adoption. We adopted that amendment unanimously in committee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Further debate on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Landis, would you like to close? Closing has been waived. Question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

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

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, would you like to tell us about your bill.