

Insurance Availability Act. At the same time the Department of Insurance wanted to make clear that a provision that was in in LB 1222 was interpreted appropriately and that was because there had been a question as to how to interpret one section of LB 1222 and the Department of Insurance wanted to make clear that that act does not apply to employers who employ one or two eligible employees on or after January 1, 1995, even though subsequently they may employ three or more employees. In other words, it's the other end of the measuring stick and they wanted a very clear measuring stick and they didn't think that 1222 gave them that clear measuring stick. Senator Wesely introduced on their behalf LB 846 and after hearing both bills the committee decided to put 846 into 837 and then send 837 to the floor. So this committee amendment is that provision which the Department of Insurance wanted to clarify who was available to use 1222 and the measuring stick is that that act, the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act of last year will not be available to employers who have one or two employees on or after January 1, 1995. That's the date and that's the number. The bill was 846 which has subsequently been killed. We ask for the adoption of this committee amendment. It will save us time and effort on the floor and basically does the same thing which is to establish the parameters of a Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act, both at the top end with the 837 provisions now at 50, and the low end which would have been done by 846 and which will be basically three or more employees. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Landis. On the committee amendments, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Landis did, as usual, a nice job describing the issue. I do rise in support of the committee amendment. It was an issue brought to me by the Department of Insurance which was brought to them by some small employers and self-employed individuals, that would include farmers or other proprietors and I do have a letter from the Department of Insurance that describes the issue. Essentially what it was is that a farmer or another individual who has a business check wasn't allowed by some companies to write a business check to pay for their insurance premium, thus negating the chance to get the tax deduction that that would bring and the reason was that they didn't want them to then, if they grew to beyond three employees, they would fall under the act we passed last year and they didn't want that to happen