

reporting process, ensuring that the more accurate and complete insurance coverage information is received. This would reduce the delay that sometimes occurs in getting benefits to the injured workers. This is a bill, basically, that merely simplifies the method and expedites the method of the filing of these claims through the Workmen's Compensation Court. This bill was advanced unanimously by the Business and Labor Committee. And I would simply at this time ask for the advancement of the bill to Select File. And if there are any questions I'd be happy to answer them. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Mr. Clerk, I understand you have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Will would move to amend the bill. (AM3435 is found on pages 1021-23 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. This amendment, I believe you will find on page 1021, thank you, Mr. Clerk, page 1021 of the Journal. And what...the substance of this amendment is very simple. It would insert the contents of LB 504, which I introduced last legislative session, into this bill. The essence of LB 504 is that it would define cumulative trauma as an occupational disease as far as workers' compensation purposes go. And this is an issue that I've, I've introduced before. Last year the Business and Labor Committee advanced this bill, I believe it's a committee priority, but it's...the chances, obviously, of it coming up on its own this session are not very great at this point. I want to state at the outset, I've talked with Senator Vrtiska about this, my intent is not to bring LB 1230 down by this amendment. What I hope would occur, what he and I have discussed is that, I'll give my introduction, I'll probably give some time to him, frankly, to give his thoughts on this amendment. Hopefully we can have a short debate, lay out what the amendment does, the arguments on both sides, come to a vote, and one way or the other, up or down, and then, and then continue to act on LB 1230. The impetus behind this bill and the background is that in workers' comp, in general, there are two ways that an individual can be compensated, and that is if they suffer an