

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 373A.

SPEAKER WITHEM: (LB) 373A is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 515.

CLERK: (LB) 515, introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17, referred to the Banking Committee, advanced to General File. There are Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0405 is found on page 803 of the Legislative Journal, First Session.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis, for the committee amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 515 was a committee priority from last year. It is a bill that allows trade associations that have been in existence for two years or longer, whose purpose to exist is not to provide workers' compensation insurance, to, as one of their other functions, bundle up the needs of their members and purchase individual workers' compensation policies on behalf of their members. By bundling those individual policies together, hopefully there would be a block of business sufficient perhaps to be able to create a discount from the workers' comp insurer. If the discount is available, the bill allows the organization to apportion that discount among its members. Significantly, it is the hope of the organizations who brought this bill to the Legislature that that discounted pot of money could be used for safety programs to increase safety in the workplace, which is, I think, a very good idea. The purchase of the bundled policies would have to be done through an agent, they would have to be done in conformance with our deductibles law, which is administered basically by the comp court, and our data collection statutes, which are administered by the Department of Insurance. By making sure that these two laws were followed it really takes away the need to register these companies, which was originally in LB 515. The committee amendments strike the provision that requires associations to register with the Legislature, I'm sorry, register with the Department of Insurance. The Insurance Department came in and said that they didn't need that and it was unnecessary from their point of view, and so we struck the registration and we struck the injunctive power of the department with respect to these