

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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state and has no expectation of causing problems in the foreseeable future. For that reason, wouldn't move the standard. I don't predict dire consequences. I just don't want to increase risk and, for that reason, I'm going to vote against 346. That's what I came to say, and I'd like to pull my amendment or my kill motion and we can proceed to a voice vote on the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The motion is withdrawn. For discussion on LB 346, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Byars, perhaps I should address my questions to you because I don't think I understood the bill entirely apparently, but I thought that, to the extent that 49 percent non-CPA ownership could exist, that the ownership had to be by members who are part of the same accounting firm or company. That's...that's correct, first of all, is it not?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But Senator Landis seems to be implying that, even though this 49 percent has to be part of the accounting firm, that the firm itself, as incorporated, could have a broader range of business, that is, the ownership could be 49 percent, but the 49 percent who are part of the company who are owners could themselves be engaged in something other than the practice of accounting. They could be engaged in banking, for example? Is that...is that accurate or not? Mean, that seems to be...I'm a little confused in the sense that if they...if the 49 percent is required to be a part of the accounting firm and the business of the accounting firm is accounting only, I'm much less troubled by this progression than if the accounting firm can deal with a broad array of business or one other important aspect of business, banking or commercial work, commercial real estate or whatever...

SENATOR BYARS: Would you like a response, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, if you think I've...I'm just worried that I didn't explain my question clearly. If it's clear to you, respond.