

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2003            LB 255

in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BROMM: Committee amendments are adopted. We're back on considering the advancement of LB 255. Is there any discussion? Senator Landis, you're recognized to close on the advancement.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Brashear pointed out an important issue and I welcome the work of the Judiciary Committee's amendment that we just adopted. We have mediation centers, six of them, in this state, and they cover the state border to border, and they provide training on people to become mediators, and part of that is a 30-hour mediation training, a basic training. One of the things we wanted to make sure was that nothing in LB 255 lessened those obligations or responsibilities, and that's what the committee amendment just did. Arnie Stuthman just asked me a good question. He said, you know, are there people that...you know, is there a body of people out there ready to do this? And the answer is, yes, there are and they come from two sources. Number one, they come from the mediation training from the mediation centers, and they do it half a dozen to a dozen times a year. And I'm going to guess there are literally thousands of people who have gone through that training, I mean maybe to like 2,000 or 3,000, something like that. Of that number, about half of them have also gone through the obligation to do the experience which is required for one of these mediation centers. But I have to tell you that I'm rather proud of this field in this way. A mediator does not gain their legitimacy by getting a certificate or a diploma. They get their legitimacy because two other parties have faith in that third party. This is an unregulated field. We are providing mediation services and we're setting the bar at 30 hours of training and, by the way, our system is a darn good one. It's well respected around the country and we have fine mediators that we're making available to the public, but you don't have to be one of our mediation center trained mediators. In fact, you can put yourself out there as a mediator without any specific training. Now you can't work for one of our mediation centers and do that, but you can do it, and so long as