

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

May 21, 2003

LB 743

as I indicated to you earlier, most of these amendments will be withdrawn. We've shared some ideas. I don't want to overburden the bill. I want it to work on whatever level you all think it can work. But this amendment I think is an important aspect of it all. As you recall, I just described to you that calls within the state, which is the area...is the only area, that that's the purpose of this bill is to deal with calls within the state. Otherwise, you wouldn't need the bill. But as far as calls originating in the state are concerned, there is an exemption in this bill for all state licensees. In other words, all those various professions in the state who might make a call, whether it's realtors or insurance agents or banks or affiliates of banks or doctors, nurse...health care professionals of one type or another, everybody who is licensed by the state in any way is exempted from the bill. And I don't think that's what the public wants. I don't think it matters to the public whether the call is coming from outside the state or inside the state, and I don't think it matters if it's coming from somebody who is licensed or whether it's coming from somebody who is not licensed. Electricians are licensed. Lots and lots of different people are licensed. So if you allow an exemption for all those who are licensed, you're going to allow a very large number of people to continue making calls to consumers, and I don't think, from my experience with AARP and from what I've heard from my constituents, that that's an exemption they would want. So this amendment strikes that exemption and suggests that you treat everybody who makes a call within the state the same. You...and there are, of course, exemptions based on business relationships and experiences. There are exemptions based on the fact that you indicated to people in one way or another that you wanted them to call. You expressed interest in a product. You actually asked them, called or gave them permission to call, or responded to written material. There are a whole number of ways in which licensed people can have an avenue to call you, but they shouldn't have the blanket exemption. And the bill currently has that blanket exemption and I don't think there is any justification for treating somebody that's licensed differently from somebody who is not licensed within the state, and would recommend to you that you do away with that particular exemption. Thank you.