

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

January 27, 2005 LB 119

and use. This is, as Senator Bourne has said, this is something where we're getting into the technology age and we can probably let the Insurance Department monitor these a lot better. They can go ahead and sell...allow a company to come into the state and start selling insurance. If we don't do something like that, then we're going to have to start looking at subsidizing workmen's compensation insurance for some of these areas, such as house moving or your livestock auction barns, your tree trimmers, some of the people that have what is considered high risk, but really the risk isn't that high for them, but the insurance companies don't have enough sales or enough clients to have any kind of data on what the risk ratio is. So I think we need to be very careful about this. I certainly will vote against Senator Beutler's amendment to this. I think Section 28 should stay in the bill such as it is and I think it enhances it. It's...this bill has had a considerable amount of work done on it through the summer. It's something that came out of the Banking, Insurance Committee. We had hearings across the state on various aspects of this and I'm sure even Senator Beutler attended some of the hearings. So I think when it was evaluated and the hearings have, most...there was...wasn't, as near as I can remember, very little objections to it. The only objection I saw to anybody that had any file and use was from an insurance company that didn't even sell insurance in the state, never has and didn't intend to. So that was a case of testimony that I don't think was relevant to what we were trying to do. So I, again, I'd voice my objection to this amendment and I would encourage everyone to vote to advance this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Redfield, I wanted to use the issue of medical malpractice to demonstrate the power of the insurance companies or the insurance industry, because people are familiar with that having been in the news not too long ago. And, Senator Bourne, as far as quill pens, Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet with a quill pen. The Cat in the Hat was written on a computer and, although Cat in the Hat is very amusing, it doesn't rise to the level of Shakespeare. So I don't think that quill pens should just be cast aside. We're running out of time this morning, so