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

February 15, 2005 LB 533

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. I can tell the body that discussions in committee, the bell of insurability and insuring the public was rung frequently. Commonwealth did come up again and, as best we could, we tried to evaluate the...this single entity that is not insured. The committee as a whole decided that it's time that this entity become insured, just like everyone else, and that's the reason. Now, if there are extenuating circumstances, if Senator Bourne would like, we'd be glad to discuss this with the owner of the institution between now and...if we can move this bill along, we'd be glad to talk to him if...before we do anything on Select...if he'd like to sit down and talk to the committee, if you'd like to engage, if we can move this from General to Select with the understanding that we will talk about this in committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator.

SENATOR MINES: Oh, yeah, let me ask Senator Bourne...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Bourne, would you yield?

SENATOR MINES: ...to respond.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Mines, I appreciate your offer. My concern here is that we have an institution who claims that, and I have no reason to doubt them, they say they will not be able to afford the assessment and will close. So I have a problem with the process in that they were not entitled to public notice and the benefit of a hearing. And I don't know if anyone else in here struggles but...with the process, but if you're going to, in a sense, close an institution that has been in business since 1922 without the benefit of a hearing, I don't think that's appropriate. And so what I'm asking is that, if you want to do that, bring a bill, allow a public hearing, but what I'm asking is that we delete the added language, the new language, that as I understood came in a...on basically a whim in Executive Session. And so what I'm asking is let's remove that language, let the bill go forward, and if you want to study this over the