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allow people to fraudulently protect their assets, but we also recognize that in today's world, people are one medical crisis away, many times, from bankruptcy. I distributed earlier an article talking about people who are insured, who are employed, who end up, even though they believe that they are covered in a catastrophic health situation, may in fact find, with their deductibles and other costs and the fact that they may not even be able to work through that illness, find themselves, through no fault of their own, having to file for bankruptcy. This bill is about protecting assets that these people may have set aside to protect their life--life insurance and annuities. There are many people who are self-employed in this state. There are many people like myself who have gone from one job or another as their family demands have demanded their time, and so because of that, they do not have at their disposal a pension plan. And for those people, the only type of pension plan they have available is investment in an annuity or a life insurance program. So what the bill would actually do with the committee amendment, it would protect \$100,000 of cash value for a life insurance or an annuity. And that is all. Now, where the protection is, is that we have created a look-back, and the bankers have worked with us on this, so that in fact there's a look-back provision that someone cannot plan several years out to lay aside and protect this money. I believe it's reasonable. The bankers felt it was reasonable, and certainly the Committee of Banking and Insurance agreed with that. So I believe that it's a fair and reasonable proposal that is before you. And we will have a committee amendment which Senator Mines will address. The one thing I would tell you, besides a medical crisis, people often face a layoff in their work situation, as we've seen a downturn in our economy. People have a divorce situation. Sometimes there are tragedies that enter our people's lives and, through no fault of their own, they find themselves at a very last resort filing for bankruptcy. It would be shortsighted for the state not to protect these assets that will actually provide for their retirement in later years. As we all know, the cost of nursing homes are very high and it falls back onto the state and the federal government and Medicaid programs, as well as the other kinds of assistance for people who are low income. So I would ask for your advancement of the bill. It has been advanced unanimously repeatedly. It