

March 8, 1984

LB 1130, 1131, 561

Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee for the introduction of Req. #1855.

SPEAKER NICHOL: This is the same situation. It is by the Business and Labor Committee, authorization to introduce a claims bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays on the introduction of the bill, Mr. President.

Mr. President, new bills, LB 1130 by the Business and Labor Committee and signed by its members and LB 1131 by the Business and Labor Committee and signed by its members. (Read by title for the first time. See pages 1431-1432 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: We will move on to #7, LB 561.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 561 introduced by Senator DeCamp. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 19 of last year, Mr. President. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have amendments pending by the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, LB 561 was first heard by the Public Health and Welfare Committee last year. It is designed to expand the practice of optometry to include the use of eye drops and ointments for therapeutic purposes. As you are aware, optometrists won the right to use eye drops for diagnostic purposes several years ago. Now because the committee was unable to come to a resolution of the issues that divide optometrists and the ophthalmologists on this, a study committee was appointed to attempt to resolve the differences between the two groups during the interim. That study committee was comprised of representatives of both professions and the legal counsel of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. They also were unable to arrive at an