

March 19, 1980

LB 222

SENATOR FOWLER: If I could.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR FOWLER: Briefly, these amendments have been worked out with representatives of law enforcement, the County Attorneys Association and medical individuals. It is to take the draft of the bill, the green copy, and amend it in some sections to make it more workable. It is essentially, the bill would become what the County Attorneys...the original, the green copy is the bill as submitted by the county attorneys. These are amendments agreed to by the county attorneys. It broadens the board membership to include the Director of the Health Department and the head of the State Patrol. It removes the local law enforcement officer from the board. It cuts the per diem down to \$50.00, and it makes that only for the nonpublic members, the per diem. It takes some of the responsibility that was originally assigned to the board and gives it down to the Chief Medical Examiner, specifically in the area of training and recommendation of district medical examiners. It adds some death qualifications for investigation and it removes some. I think probably the ones that it removes are more numerous than the ones that it adds. It amends other sections of the statute where there is references to county attorneys or county coroner's duties and inserts the Chief Medical Examiner. It delays the implementation of the actual act to January 1, 1981 giving the board time to set up the structure for implementation. It clarifies expense reimbursement for pathologists. These are the things that are done. It is to make 222 more workable. Whether or not you agree with the concept of LB 222, I would ask, beseech, request, whatever, that you adopt these amendments in order that we have in front of us a workable bill, a bill with clearly defined duties between the board and the medical examiner, and if you are concerned about the scale of investigation within this, the amendments cuts down some of the broader sections that are now in the green copy and makes more precise the types of death that would be investigated, so, in fact, these amendments curtail and reduce the scope of the State Medical Examiner. After the amendments are adopted, we can still certainly debate the concept. I can explain again the fiscal impact, the analysis that has been done in terms of cost that I have had handed out to you that has been done by our Legislative Research Office and concurred by the Legislative Fiscal Office. But I think those fiscal issues can be debated on the bill itself and on the A bill. I would urge, no matter what your feeling on 222, that you adopt these amendments so that we have a more workable