

for members of this licensing board. .

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins and then Senator Schmit. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. At first blush I was going to support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Can we have a little order, please. (Gavel.) Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And then as I got the bill out and read the bill where it originally just says a lay person, I wonder how many of the 49 senators here that have been voting and voting and voting on bills concerning real estate had any real knowledge of real estate before they came to the Legislature. How many of you voted on Sanitary Improvement Districts? Medicaid? Any myriad of the 715 bills we have got, show me one member of this Legislature that is knowledgeable in all 715 areas that those bills cover. I think I...well, with the exception of Senator Conway, of course, he makes an exception and Senator DeCamp, as he says. But I think that it is unreasonable to say that if we are going to have someone truly represent the public, that they have to be knowledgeable in real estate, if you go with that concept, then we ought to have a law that says the only person that can be a legislator, one who writes laws, should be an attorney. And I think a person from the public would be better to look out for the layman's interest. So long as the Governor is going to appoint someone of average or above average intelligence, who is able to learn and understand, I think we should leave the language the way it is. But I appreciate Senator Beutler's concern that he feels they should be knowledgeable in real estate. I think if I were appointed to this board, I would probably get some knowledge real quick, not only about real estate but about abstracting. So on that basis, I shall have to oppose this amendment. As you know, I have tried several times to get more lay people put on that unbalanced Real Estate Commission we have where the public is outnumbered something like six or seven to one. So I will oppose the amendment on behalf of the public. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit and then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the