

their bills considered this year or next. It would be two years before they even could come back before the Legislature. So I ask your support for the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Motion is the adoption of the Public Health Committee amendments to LB 407. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments. Please record your vote. Members of the Legislature outside the Chamber, you may be interested in this motion. The motion is the adoption of the Public Health Committee amendments to LB 407. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now onto the bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, Senator Withem gave me a hard time about nobody listening on some of these speeches. I don't mind if you don't listen, just so you give me your vote like the last one, that is the most important thing. But if you want to hear about the bill and understand the bill, I would ask you to give me a couple of minutes to explain it and to refute some of the concerns Senator Chambers and Senator Higgins have. Let me first off state emphatically I am not anti-woman and I am not trying to harm the cause of women. I have never done that and I think Senator Higgins knows that. In fact, this bill is an attempt to be fair to everybody. What we have now here is a system by which we decide licensure issues on a political basis. People come before the committee, they apply pressure to the committee one way or the other. Then it maybe comes out of committee and pressure is applied on the floor and you have all felt that pressure on different licensure bills. We don't determine on the basis of professionalism. We determine on the basis of political strength a lot of these licensure issues and that is really no way to go about the process. We need to approach it in a far more systematic process than we have now. This has been talked about for many, many years. In the handout that I have before you, in 1980 and 1981 I had resolutions calling for a similar type voluntary process. It is not an issue that I have been brought by the health care industry and am