

the self-insurer, who in effect is underwriting group health business, pays no premium tax whatsoever. So again it has been my recommendation and thought, and I think that of the Revenue Committee, that group health insurance should be treated somewhat differently from other lines of insurance. As a result the suggested premium tax across the board for group health coverage would be a half of 1 percent. With these changes this bill will be constitutional, there is no question about that, will be reasonable policy for our state and will not lose us money. In fact, when the arithmetic is all worked through the bill should be a revenue producer for the state. And that explains the bill, that explains the kind of amendment I intend to offer as soon as it is back from the bill drafter, but in the meantime I have to take up the committee amendments to the bill. Let me do that now. The committee amendments were designed to do one thing in particular. That one thing in particular was to assure that our premium taxes would be paid on a quarterly basis as opposed to being paid on an annual basis. Our domestic insurance companies came to us and suggested that quarterly payments would be in order. Now quarterly payments are beneficial to the state and local government because that means that the money comes to us earlier in time than it now comes to us and that means that that money in effect can earn interest if we chose for it to do that. So the quarterly payments should result in some small gain to the state. The committee amendments address other technical questions with the bill, but at this time I would offer to you for your consideration the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: (No response.)

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Is there further discussion of the committee amendments? If not, the motion is to adopt the amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Please record your vote on the adoption of committee amendments to 1114. Please record your vote. Please record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The amendments are adopted.