

by the Workers' Compensation Court statutes. All medical fees, hospital bills, whatever, that relate to an injury are simply to be paid. It is really, I believe, no different than a claim under a health insurance plan. If, in fact, the attorneys can collect for delinquent medical payments under this on behalf of their client, their client is entitled to those by process, fully paid at no cost to the injured party at all. It would appear to me that with the Lindsay amendment, and he may certainly correct my thought processes if I am in error, but it would appear to me that in this particular case with the addition of this language there exists the possibility of an attorney collecting medical fees, receiving a...their fee from that, whatever that portion might be or what ordered by the court and deducting that from the full payment of medical fees which is an issue between the insured and the employer and the company that is carrying the Worker's Compensation, or providing the Workers' Compensation Court policy or for those that are self-insured, the employer themselves. I'm not exactly certain that the effect that this might be, but it well may be something that, rather than streamlining the system, may provide further complications. So if Senator Lindsay would like to respond, I would be interested in his comments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Hefner, you're next.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I believe I'm going to oppose this amendment because I really don't see any need for it. It looks to me like it's an attorneys' amendment which would allow them to collect on medical benefits. Must remember that if the workmen's comp company is paying on this, they're certainly going to go ahead and pay the medical payments. So I would just say at this time there is no need for the amendment, and if the amendment is adopted, well, it could jeopardize the bill and I would say that I'd certainly like to see this bill pass. The Business and Labor Committee has done a lot of work on this and it does, the bill does assure a better process in the Workers' Compensation Court. So at this time I encourage you to vote against this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd respond, I guess, first to Senator Hefner. I don't think what you set forth is accurate. If insurance companies were willing to just pay the