

regulations that would indicate that if, in fact, there was an existing safety committee that may be, in fact, more stringent than the bill's safety committee or collective bargaining arranged safety committee, that we wouldn't have to impose something different on them, that they could utilize what they already have?

SENATOR LANDIS: In the case of the collective bargaining situation that you asked me, the answer is yes.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Okay. So...the reason I say that is because the safety committee that we have in place, frankly, works. That safety committee, however, has more employee members than employer members. They make significant recommendations to the management. Management understands, frankly, that it makes sense to make changes to make the work place safer. It saves them money, but if they have to go back to the situation that we have here, I think that would probably be a step back that no one wants. So I guess I wanted to make it clear so when the Department of Labor, if this bill is passed, begins to draft rules and regulations, they understand that if, in fact, we have a safety committee or if a business has established a safety committee by collective bargaining or otherwise, we don't need to change that. They can utilize what they already have, it works, it works well and I want to ensure that the safeguards that the employer and employee have established certainly in that particular situation are not changed or altered by virtue of passage of this legislation. I just wanted it in the record.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hohenstein. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of the Abboud amendment to the Landis amendment. Essentially, what we have done is we've isolated the issue of the safety committees and have...essentially there is one of two ways to go with the safety committees. Either you have a safety committee in place and you give it teeth or you eliminate the safety committee. You acknowledge that the safety committee structure in the bill currently really does not give two workers what the concept of a safety committee ought to. The elimination of the safety committee was the subject of the Lindsay amendment that was just rejected. I take it, from that vote, that the desire of the body is to maintain the existence of the safety committee in the bill. The Abboud amendment would