

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

“SB 180 is a bill from the Oregon State Bar which is always suspect. It purports to help citizen claimants but in reality ensures lawyers are in the middle with billable hours. Even the trial lawyers in testimony thought a third part entity should register such documents to ensure neutral accountability. Did not happen. The Carrier’s explanation was different than committee member explanations. Bill text was different, a constant problem this Session as nobody is physically present to vet problem language in bills. With personal experience in lawyers getting payment notices then failing to tell the client this is a real problem. We see some citizen complaints on this problem in my State Senate office from constituents. A problem the OSB could address and enforce against errant lawyers under the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct. However, the OSB does not police its own but instead it protects its members despite being a quasi-state agency. Sending billable lawyer to lawyer communications does not help a citizen claimant. Another situation of government helping government not the people.”