

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please. Then Senator Abboud. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: One quick comment, Mr. President, on an issue that Senator Chambers just raised in having the counties establishing their fees. I recall discussions that we had in the Government Committee over the issue of having counties setting their fees. I don't really think it is all that bad of an idea. I know last year we passed a law that increased the fee for divorces a phenomenal amount of money, and I was shocked at the amount of telephone calls and comments that I received back in Douglas County over why the Legislature raised the fees. This happens over and over again. We raise the fees for the local subdivisions, and then we take all the heat for it. I think if they think that the fees should go up, that we should give them the responsibility. I have no problems in setting, in this particular instance when it comes to fees, where there is direct accountability from the county board to the people that they will choose the wise course and probably not raise the fees. I think this is one instance where we could take the bull by the horns, say, county boards, county commissioners, you think the fees should go up for your sheriffs, go ahead and raise them yourselves and you take the heat from the public. I support the Pirsch amendment, and I may be supporting an amendment by Senator Chambers, if he chooses to offer one dealing with allowing the local counties to establish their own fee setting ability for the service of process. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, would you like to close on your amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I didn't realize this was going to be such a time consuming amendment. I just want to point out that we are just changing two areas and, of course, I think making a better understanding of what a copy is when we add "certified copy". Senator Nelson called attention to the mileage. I just wanted to point out that we already give the sheriffs 3 cents more per mile than the rate provided for county officers and employees, which is 21 cents. So, that would be 24 cents, and that does not change. We did reduce the amount of fee, or the amount of mileage that would be under the 50 cent fee. So, in a way we increased that from the 50 cents to the mileage, which gives the sheriff a little break. I also have no disagreement on the levying a writ of execution and return thereof which jumped from 2 to 15 dollars. I think that is fair. Also we agree that the