

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Abboud, to speak to the Wickersham amendment. Senator Wesely, to speak to the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. Senator Wickersham has worked very hard on the issue of EMT services, as have a number of other legislators in here who know how important it is. We did an interim study last year, and then a bill was introduced in follow-up to that interim study. We did have a hearing on this measure with a good deal of support. There was a concern, actually the elements of this are largely from LB 637, but there was concern about a fund that was established under that bill, that's not included in this amendment. These are more or less technical changes, the EMS laws that will deal with problems that we've identified over the period last year in the interim study and this year over the bill, and I think should make life easier for EMTs and at the same time, I think, not cause any concern about the quality questions involved. So I feel very comfortable with the amendment and urge your adoption of the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I could just ask Senator Wickersham a question or Senator Wesely, either one, it doesn't matter who responds necessarily.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Dealing with the fiscal note, did I understand either you or Senator Wesely just indicate that whatever created the large fiscal note on this has been taken out of 637?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I believe you're correct. I don't see any reason why the amendment that I'm offering would have any particular fiscal note attached to it at all. In fact it ought to have a reduction in fiscal impact because it changes the recertification period for two classes of EMTs, the EMT1's and the EMTIV's. The...there was a proposal in 637 to create a cash...to create a fund with which to pay for increased training or for equipment grants for EMS units, but that is not in these amendments.