

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, suffice it to say the committee amendments will become the bill. This is a project that I've been the... I see Senator Withem has name on the bill. I see Senator Withem nowhere in sight when it comes to explaining this very difficult bill. (Laugh) It's a bill that I wished I did not have to try to explain to you and if you want to trap me you can do it very easily because it's a very complicated subject, at least to me. I'm not a computer whiz. For those of you who are computer whizzes, I wish you'd pick up your microphone and help me with this. But the problem we have in this particular case, and we had a handout, it says LB 1190. I would be pleased if you would all read it. It explains the reason for the bill. Second page tells how the proposal is to fix it and the third page tells what we are proposing to do in terms of legislative oversight and administration. The last page explains in more detail how we are using a combination of cigarette tax funds, some...that have been presently going to 309 that will be diverted to this, and some revolving funds, which I guess is not on that, it's on the A bill, to try to make the transition into this. If you notice the century date change, which is a CDC, as you see that in your program, has occurred because computer programs were written with a six-digit date code to provide for the month, date and year, for example 12-31-99. This explains in a nutshell our problem. However, a computer with a six-digit date code would read 1-1-00, as of January 1, 1900, rather than January 1 of the year 2000. This is a problem that we've got reams and reams of material on. If you're interested in more detail about what other...what industries are experiencing in this area, what other areas are, in the economy, are experiencing of having to do, go to the expense of updating their computer's program software for the year...the chancery date change into the year 2000. Time is of the essence of this. We really need to start immediately. The proposal is that if this were...will pass we will go for a request for proposal, PFP, already in May, hopefully to get some company to...several companies to bid and start working on our programming as early as this fall. We have a projected cost perhaps of 28 to 30 million dollars. It is not a cheap problem. On the other hand, we see no way to avoid this coming. If you read Wall Street Journal, if you read technology magazines, it has been seen to be coming for at least a couple years. We have