

show the things that are in my amendment, which are three things, number one, that the firefighter passed a physical before coming onto the fire force or shortly thereafter that proves that the individual did not have cancer at that time, that the firefighter was exposed to a known carcinogen, and, three, that that carcinogen is of a type that causes the cancer that is the type that the firefighter has, that's simply prima facie evidence to get that firefighter into court. That's all. That's all my amendment says, and we ought to retain it, and we ought to retain it at the June 1, 1996 date. There are reasons that, you know, and Senator Kristensen said, firefighters are popular. Sure, they are popular. They...they expose themselves to life-threatening situations on almost a daily basis. That's why we give them a great latitude in certain areas, statutorily, and that's why we need to recognize the things that they put themselves through that most of us don't or do on a very rare occasion. I've already talked about the three hoops they have to jump through. That's very important. They have to make it through those three levels before they even get to the level of prima facie evidence, and it doesn't prove a thing. They still have to prove their case in order to...to get into the pension plan. The argument, the main argument behind delaying this for a year is we need time to study this. We need to see what the cost effects are. Frankly, the cities have had two years to study this. I introduced this bill at the beginning of last legislative session. If the cities haven't studied this by now, I don't know what they're doing. I don't know what they're doing out there. If they think that this is such a monumental thing, that this could have such a great effect on them, I don't know what they've been spending their time on. This is ridiculous. You know, there is no reason to delay the implementation date of this because you know what is going to happen? The cities are going to come back, and I don't care what their study finds, they are going to come back next year and they are going to have a bill to repeal this, that's what they are going to do, I guarantee you. And there is no reason to bow down to them right now when we implemented a policy last week that we know is right, that we know that a firefighter who is exposed to carcinogens, and can show the things that my amendment says they can show ought to be able to at least have a prima facie case...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.