

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Madam Chairman, I would like to correct that amendment, Pat. On line 10 that should say 17.5 rather than 15.5, please. Thank you. Madam President and colleagues, this is the Wesely amendment and I visited with the introducer of the bill, Senator Cullan. He has no opposition to this. What we are doing, the effect of this amendment probably will not come into play for a couple of years because these monies are available, but eventually if this bill works like it is intended to do with the smaller match from the cities, we're going to use those funds up. Now this shouldn't curtail us from safety measures in railroad crossings. In fact, it should enhance it and expedite the process, but rather than the extra burden coming on the state which is what the situation would call for eventually, the railroads would pick up that additional five and a half percent, which I think is only proper. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Madam Chairman, I have to speak against the Dworak amendment and I am speaking against it because I have had some experience with railroads and local subdivisions, how to finance these safety devices on crossings. It sometimes unfortunately takes a year or two or three before any action is taken. The reason is not that we don't have enough money, that over three and a half million dollars in the Road Department is sitting there, they hardly used ten percent of that. The action is slowed down, in one case I had an additional death of a sixteen year old girl simply because we had a long fight with the railroad people on that. You have to consider that some railroads may be healthy enough financially to do that but there are other railroads, as we well know, that are close to being broke and they will not be willing to voluntarily go ahead and pay that part. We will be in court action. We will drag this program out again and we do need those safety devices now. Senator Dworak's amendment will slow down the process and we can't afford that kind of slowing down of the process. Let's use the money as it is available and let's leave the formula as it is. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members, I wish to speak on