

SPEAKER NICHOL: Say, before you do, Senator Wesely, let me make an announcement. Senator Marsh has lost a set out of her ring and it is a light blue turquoise set that is circular and about a half inch in diameter and it is important to her. So if you would look around to see if you see it. It is a light blue round set for a ring. Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this amendment deals with a funding question on the bill. We thought the language was clear about the fact that what we are doing here to fund the cost of this review process is to take 5 percent out of the fees that are now paid in by these different licensed professionals and use that amount of money to then fund the process. We need to go retroactive though back to the start of this year and we thought that was in the bill but it isn't. So this amendment merely says that 5 percent assessment to fund the review process would be retroactive to January 1 of this year. This bill will cost no general fund money. It will all be cash funds right out of the professional licensure fees that are paid but we need to have this retroactivity to have enough funds to cover the costs so I would ask your support for this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would Senator Wesely yield to a question? How much difference are we talking about in fiscal impact? Are we lowering it, raising it?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh...

SENATOR HIGGINS: We are going retroactive?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, it was intended from the beginning that it would be retroactive but it goes from January 1 of this year instead of starting when the bill is actually adopted and the difference is enough that it would be difficult not to do this to have the money.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What goes from January 1 of this year?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, all we are saying is, under the bill, that 5 percent of the licensure fees collected by the