

you that you ought to think through a consistent philosophy on this matter and apply it one way or the other and I think that the manner in which Senator Chambers is suggesting is the better way. Not only do you get into problems with fairness, but I think you get into problems of regressive versus progressive taxation. As you increase these fees and as they become significant, if you're going to do this in a whole number of areas, there is no reason why you wouldn't if you adopt this particular philosophy, then you're going to get into a system that is increasingly regressive, that is the poor person who is buying a marriage license is effectively going to be hit harder than a wealthy person who probably won't be bothered too much by the provision. But I think we should be encouraging a tax system which is at least as progressive as the one that we have and not more regressive. Again, one of the main arguments we've had against the property tax of course is its regressivity, the fact that now during poor times, hard times the tax is there and is applied against those who are making no money, against those who are essentially poor as opposed to those who are in fact making money. So it doesn't appear to me to be a particularly thoughtful kind of tax in terms of how it operates. With that I would encourage you to adopt Senator Chambers' amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I would oppose the Chambers amendment. The whole basis of the bill is to provide for a special trust fund set up through this additional fee. I think that they make valid points perhaps in the sense that we could use general fund money to do this, but the concept of a child trust fund is one that is now in place in about 17 other states, and without fail, I think, these other states have all taken a similar approach in terms of increasing by a small amount the fees on the marriage and birth certificates and allowing that fee to be placed in a fund that will eventually be self-supporting so that these increases will be a temporary, not a long-term perpetual commitment. The increase in the marriage license would be from 10 to 15 dollars essentially. The birth certificate increase would be from 5 to 8 dollars, and as all of you know, I have recently gone through both marriage and birth and so I can tell you that the increase in those fees is not unreasonable. As any of you can recall when you were married, you'll know that \$15 is a small fraction of