

difficult time with the fact that we can't do it just right straight up. I would also, since my good seatmate here indicates that he thinks it ought to have an emergency clause so it will catch him, I will remind Senator Miller that it's not the original cost, it's the upkeep. So no matter what the license is, from there on is when the cost is going to be.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins...oh, we have an amendment to the amendment, I guess.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend Senator Lynch's amendment. (See Beutler amendment found on page 2104 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, my amendment proposes to add a fee. I'm going to establish for the first time in the state a divorce fee. The divorce fee is in the amount of \$100. The reason that I'm establishing a divorce fee is because this body seems to think that because child abuse is related to marriages and that kind of thing, and that, therefore, those things should be taxed an increased amount, then it seems to me even more appropriate that we should fund this out of the divorce fee because I suggest to you that statistics will show that the children of divorced parents, those who are living with stepparents and boy friends and girl friends, tend to be the children that are most abused, and that, therefore, relating this as closely as possible, the fee that should be increased or the fee that we should institute is a divorce fee. Not only that, it would have a beneficial social value because marriages are good and we don't want to tax marriages high. Divorces are bad, so we want to tax divorces. We want to try to keep people together. If we can keep more people together, there will be less child abuse because we know where the child abuse lies primarily. Then if we have this tax, and if we can get rid of a building up of the fund and do what we should do with regard to aid to dependent children, then we will not only help keep families together but we will strengthen families. I think that in the strengthening of families lies our best hope for doing away with child abuse. That would be my amendment, Mr. Speaker.