

purpose of funding the trust fund. What I am suggesting with this amendment is that we leave exactly as in the Lynch amendment those provisions dealing with birth certificates, but with regard to marriage certificates that we do not increase the marriage certificate at all, that is we leave it at \$10 instead of increasing it to \$20, and that to make up for that revenue, and to maintain the total then of the \$250,000 or so in revenue that we substitute a divorce fee of \$25 which when multiplied times the 6,300 divorces that take place in the state every year gives you an amount that is slightly in excess of the amount of revenue that is lost by not increasing the marriage fee. I recommend this substitution for you I guess on three different grounds. First of all, if the idea is to have a specific tax, that is a tax that is specific to or most specific to the problem areas that we have with regard to child abuse, then it probably makes some sense to be taxing divorces instead of marriages, and since we already essentially have a tax on marriage, it would seem to me that...and no tax on divorce, it seems to me that a little balance might be called for here for those two reasons. In addition to that, it seems to me that it is good not to discourage a positive social event, that is the event of a marriage, and to the extent that there is any effect at all, I suppose an additional tax on marriage would tend to have a negative effect on marriages and it seems to me that it would probably be good on the other hand to discourage negative social events, and to the extent that such a fee has any sort of an effect at all, I suppose it would tend to have a negative effect on divorces. So for those reasons, I would suggest that a divorce fee is more appropriate in this case than the marriage fee and ask your support for substituting just the divorce fee for the marriage fee and leaving the birth certificate fee increases the same as in the Lynch amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Speaking on the amendment to the amendment, Speaker Nichol, do you wish recognition?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in opposition to the amendment and to the amendment to the amendment for two simple reasons. Increasing marriage certificates double, why? We are encouraging young people to get married. This may even discourage that because some are on thin ice to do it in the first place. Secondly, if you are going to charge a fee for