

divorce, who pays the fee, the divorcee or the divorcer, and if they have faded away and you can't find them, how do you get the money? I just don't think this kind of a meritorious bill should be hinging on such unmeritorious ways of raising money so I oppose both the amendment and the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, next Senator Barrett.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Nichol has asked the same questions that I did, who is going to pay. If you want to talk about the ability to pay, I just went through a wedding a couple of weeks ago. The people who get married have a lot more money to spend when they first get married than when they get divorced. So I would say that this is a bad amendment and not to support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Well, Mr. President and members, the coalition committee that has been working on this bill for nigh on to two years have tried to develop an ongoing mechanism for this type of funding and the decision to surcharge the marriages and birth certificates was partly based, Senator Nichol, on the fact that there has been a \$15 reduction in marriage licenses in the last year or two due to the elimination of the syphilis testing which did take place some time ago. There are almost 22 states that use this type of a mechanism and the cost of child abuse and neglect in this state alone is absolutely staggering. I think it is paramount for this Legislature to pass this type of bill this year. There seems to be little or no concern about the concept of the bill. I think most people are in agreement with it. The major problem seems to be the matter of how it is funded. Now Senator Warner the other day filed an amendment to go the direct appropriations route. This was the concern of this body some several weeks ago when this was debated. This was adopted. Senator Lynch in goodness of heart comes in with an amendment to raise the marriage certificates and I believe reduce the birth certificates a very slight amount, and at that point as I recall Senator Beutler then tried to amend the Lynch amendment with his amendment to increase divorce fees to \$100. I think Senator Beutler did that several days ago in the state of frustration and I think we were all frustrated