

didn't, but this particular cut there was \$60,000 in the budget for expert witness fees and the Appropriations Committee cut it to \$30,000. My amendment cuts it to \$15,000. My rationale for this is if they spend \$15,000 for expert witness fees in one year and need more, they can come back in and ask for it. You know, \$15,000 is a lot of money for expert witness fees and I just feel that they can do with \$15,000 and not the \$30,000. So I would like to have this body accept giving them the \$15,000. If they have to come back next year and ask for more, that will be fine. I will support it then. But I don't think we should give them \$30,000 for something we don't know what it is going to cost. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this particular program was set up in the Attorney General's Office. Obviously, the variety of times that there are lawsuits filed against the state or the state is filing a lawsuit which in order to substantiate their case they must draw in expert witnesses for which you have to pay costs for, and originally it was estimated that probably in the vicinity (no tape overlap) of 60 million might...\$60,000 might be a figure that in a normal year would be the case. In the past some of those were assessed back to agencies if they could do it but many times they couldn't. We have had to pick them up in the past sometimes in a deficit bill. We went back and cut the 60...the original \$60,000 to \$30,000 and it was arbitrary. I rather suspect that they obviously can be cut arbitrarily some more. But I would rather suspect that the odds are very good that it will be back in with a deficit. So it may well even be a deficit at the \$30,000 figure. But the rationale for it was to be assured that those individuals that the state would hire as expert witnesses can be paid. There is a bit of a practical problem that most expert witnesses will not appear unless they are paid. Usually they have to be paid ahead of time. And this was to assure the state having some probability of being able to do that and to be able to account for it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, did you wish to speak on this? Okay. Senator Haberman, would you like to close on your motion, please.