

stickers. Their sales last year were off somewhere between 12 and 17 percent of those cash funds. Their sales declined between 12 and 17 percent. But here is a point I want to make very clear to you about their diminishing revenue base. Several years ago this Legislature, in its wisdom, gave away a lot of free licenses to people. They opened up free licenses to a broad group. We are never politically going to reverse that action, but I want you to understand how it came about. We had an interim study proposed that I since delayed, but I am going to share some more figures with you in a year or so from now as to what is happening. At one time disabled veterans, World War I veterans, got free hunting and fishing licenses. That was expanded on this floor a few years ago to World War II veterans. Then it was expanded to all veterans over 65 years of age and then on this floor without debate an amendment was added to give free licenses to all citizens over 70 years of age. Now not many citizens over 70 hunt, but an awful lot of them fish. There are thousands and thousands and thousands of free licenses given out that we will never be able to reverse, but remember this one key point if you remember nothing else of what I am telling you. World War II ended 40 years ago. All those veterans that served in World War II at ages 18, 19, 20, 21, et cetera, will be maturing into that 65 year veteran, 65-year old veteran in these next few years. There are going to be thousands more free licenses given away as that group of World War II veterans matures and that is a very important factor. We can't cipher it in here and I can't tell you whether it is 5 percent or 10 percent, or whatever, but bear in mind as you vote on this amendment and I hope that you reject this amendment because Game and Parks is willing to accept a 3 percent hit just like everybody else. But it is far more than 3 percent when all the figures are included, especially those thousands of free licenses that are going to be given away in the next few years. So I hope you will bear that in mind because this is deceiving, it is confusing and it is misleading and that 5.65 is in my mind excessive. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There are no further lights on. Senator Scofield, would you like to close.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. This is a tough issue to deal with because it has already been pointed out, we all love our parks. I happen to be the beneficiary in my district of some of the nicest parks in the whole