

that he was worried that it would more or less direct the executive director to do that and we wouldn't have any more pro bono lawyers and, is that his concern, now that I've heard what the amendment?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, yeah, through February 28 of this fiscal year the CVR program has received 128 claims for compensation and the Crime Commission does not receive appropriations for the administration and our agency uses existing personnel to perform its functions. The staff are borrowed from other program areas. To add to that complexity, we have no funds to pay for an attorney to function as a hearing officer for the CVR program. Therefore, the agency utilizes private attorneys who are willing to volunteer their time and services in performing the services of the hearing officer. And the turnaround time on the review is three to four weeks and now it is adding up even faster. I read the problems with finding an attorney, but this process can be expedited, according to our present Crime Commission Director, by having the executive director do the review. He understands the process and he can...he simply goes through them and then they go before the board.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, does this amendment mandate that the executive director do that and does this amendment say that pro bono lawyers can no longer be involved? Is that what it says? Is that...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, no, not as I read it. It...we did have "shall appoint one or more hearing officers". Now we are just saying the executive director shall conduct hearings, take testimony and make determinations. Now whether that can be an extension of the executive director I think is what Senator Chizek is questioning.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, I guess I would just concur with what Senator Chizek is concerned about because that's the way I think I would read it also from the language on page 2, so I would encourage us to try to work with that language.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler.