

amendments first?

SENATOR WESELY: I'll tell you what, yeah, let me...put up the committee amendments and then I'll go ahead and deal with the bill as we deal with chat. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: All right.

SENATOR WESELY: We are now on the committee amendments, is that correct?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Mr. President and members, this is a very lengthy bill. It's 176 pages long and it deals with a number of different licensure activities in the Department of Health. It was picked as one of the committee priorities for the Health Committee because it does deal with a wide range of issues and, for the most part, deals with areas in which the statutes are unclear and, as a result, the Attorney General has found the need for more clarity to allow for rules and regs to be adopted in a number of areas. Let me run through what the bill does and then that will get to what the committee amendments do. First off, one of the provisions of the bill would allow the Department of Health to place licenses and certificates on a lapse or inactive status instead of revoking such licenses when a person desires to have a license become inactive or lapsed. This allows the opportunity to...the Gillespie case is where this came out, where somebody no longer wants their license but they don't want to have the stigma of having their license revoked; they just want to lapse it. They don't have that option right now and this would allow them to do that. There is also a problem with fee ranges. Right now in most areas the Department of Health is allowed to have fee ranges that run for different licensing activity to try and cover the costs for the department. This would expand those fee ranges to a number of areas where they are not now applicable and this would help the department and also cover the costs of the department in this activity. There is language dealing with clarification of existing requirements and repeal of some conflicting and duplicative language; that's in there. And, finally, it deals with the voting of lay members on board of examiners and this does allow them full participation in board decisions. There are some lay members on some boards that aren't allowed to vote and this would provide them the