

subcontractors on the job, it would allow them to go ahead and perform without being licensed. I hope that this is a workable compromise to the problem that Senator Schmit's amendment first brought to us without opening the door too much to people that haven't demonstrated a competence in this area to do...to be primarily responsible for this sort of removal and installation. With that, if you have any questions, I would attempt to answer them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Discussion on the Withem amendment. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I will try to be brief. I support the Withem amendment. I believe, as Senator Withem has explained, it does leave someone responsible. It does allow the fire marshal to certify a contractor and then the contractor to proceed to do the work which needs to be done without having the fire marshal look over their shoulder. I believe that was one of the main concerns of the fire marshal and it also means that the contractor, so long as he or she is responsible for the subcontractors, can use little local entities as they are available and I would hope that this would encourage them to do so and thereby hold down the cost and not be a drain, an unnecessary drain on that fund either. As I pointed out earlier, I'm concerned about the fact that we're going to be drawing from this so-called insurance fund and I'm doubly concerned about the fact that once we get above the \$25,000 that it can be drained very rapidly. So I congratulate Senator Withem. I appreciate your working on this, Ron. I think it does the job and I will support the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Any further discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Withem? Senator Withem, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: This amendment again resolves, hopefully, the problem with the people doing essentially subcontracting work, not having to go through the bother of becoming licensed but it keeps the prime contractor, the one responsible for the proper installation of the job under the licensing requirement that's been set up by the Fire Marshal's Office. I think it's, hopefully, an amicable solution to the problem that we have before us and I would urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard Senator Withem's closing. We will