

cases and prosecute a certain number of those, is now down to the point where they really only have hearings, and the hearings are few and far between, yet they still employ a full-time executive director. LB 99 would change their method of operation, make it consistent with some other boards that exist that do not have the need for a full-time professional, and will indicate that they will not have a full-time professional. They will hire a...probably the equivalent of an administrative judge type of individual to help them on a case-by-case basis when they have cases come forward. It's estimated that this will probably save about \$42,000 in the operation of this commission. It's one where I think a few years ago we saw a convergence of this program that is funded by teacher certificates not raising enough money at the current level of payment into teacher certificates, so we either would have to raise that certification requirement, or do something to cut back on the work requirements of this commission. So that's what this bill does. It is...it is not without some opposition, I would point out. The Professional Practices Commission thinks that they have a continuing need to have a full-time director. They argue that since they have lost this investigation responsibility they have been able to branch out into the area of educating teachers and the public as to what the Professional Practices Commission does. The problem with that argument is that was never anything directed by the Legislature, or even authorized by the Legislature. It is, in my opinion, an attempt for them to, you know, justify their continued existence, where their work load does not...does not justify that. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to respond.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Any discussion on the amendment by Senator Withem? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Withem? Waives closing. We will now vote on the amendment by Senator Withem. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The Withem amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend the committee amendments. I now have, Senator, AM1294. (AM1294 appears on page 1457 of the Legislative Journal.)