

into 963,000, that generates about 550,000 requests. If you raise the fee a quarter, 25 cents, which is what my amendment does, it goes from \$1.75 to \$2.00, that would generate about \$137,000. That would make up the General Fund loss from tonight's action, not all of it from the other night's action. I understand there may be some concern about doing this. This would not be a shift. This would not allow an additional reduction. It would just find a little additional money along the line. This is not paid entirely obviously by insurance companies. Anybody that requests an abstract would have to pay it, but I think from \$1.75 to \$2.00, I think the last raise, if I'm not mistaken, the Transportation counsel indicated it was in about 1987. Excuse me, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee indicated. So that means it's really, really accurate. My only concern is that we've given up a little here and we're going to have to fund the General Fund somewhere else in the budget, and knowing the discussions that we've already had with respect to this budget, I am concerned that those funds are going to be harder and harder to come by. I don't intend for there to be a lot of discussion on this. It's clearly a 25 cent, from \$1.75 to \$2.00. Based on my calculations and fiscal can tell me if I'm off, it would raise about \$130,000, would replenish what we lost tonight and some of what we lost the other night and I'd urge adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hohenstein. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Moore, Ashford, and Hillman.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Hohenstein made a key point. Insurance companies are not the only ones who obtain these abstracts. The ordinary member of the public will not get these abstracts repeatedly, but there's going to be an ongoing demand by the insurance companies. So they will continue to replenish the fund because they're going to continue to obtain these abstracts. There are not that many occasions when the ordinary member of the public who has been gouged repeatedly already, gouged repeatedly already, will have to pay this additional 25 cents. So I think the amendment is appropriate. I don't think the increase is unreasonable. As a matter of fact, it's the smallest percentage increase of any of the increases we have made and it's falling on an industry which is better able to support an increase than any of the others on whom we've placed these burdens. So I do support the amendment and I hope there will be enough votes here to do it.