

It's part of a contract that we, as legislators, should not be entering into. It should not be part of LB 371 and I would urge you to strike it from the bill in this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Hall amendment, Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Hall is closer to correct with this amendment than the other ones, but I think that...the financial information that is being requested or may be requested by a brewery may be, or is delivered and there is nothing in the act that would prevent that information from being provided. All the provision talks about are audited financial statements and profit and loss statements. The...going through an auditing procedure for the renewal of a franchise agreement is an expensive proposition and all we're talking about is audited. I have no objection to delivery of financial information as part of the process of renegotiating a renewed agreement, but we're talking about audited financial statements.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Lamb.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members, the issue of close I guess is relative. It's like, in this case it would apply. We'd be talking about grenades and it would count because you're talking about...I mean what other kind of statement would you given, an unaudited statement I guess or a profit and loss statement, a balance sheet or financial records of any kind at all. When you don't adopt this amendment, what you say is that they're not required and the supplier, the folks who make the beer and sell it to the distributors are...can't require that as a provision of the contract. We're saying, we're taking contractual provisions and putting them into law. We're laying out the scope that that contract can entail, scope it can cover, what can be in there and what can't and one of the provisions that can't be in there with regard to renewal, and this really only applies to the renewal, is that you can't require financial statements of any kind, profit and loss statements, anything at all that deals with basically the financial status of the operation when it comes to renewal. Now is that good public policy? I clearly don't think so. I think it is, you know, Senator Ashford is even a little squeamish on this one because he admits that I'm close I guess. But it is not something that I think we want to put into statute. I mean,