

one-time money which they would have the discretion to use as they...as they choose, it seems to me probably is adequate. For those reasons, I do not believe it's necessary in this case to add this additional appropriation beyond what is already in the proposed budget.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Are there other lights on?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator, there's one more.

SENATOR HALL: I will wait and close.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford, would you care to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I have listened to the arguments that Senator Hall gives and they are legitimate in the abstract that the Workmens' Compensation Court could use the two extra people to...to limit the time or to decrease the time it takes to primarily process their cases and provide for process serving and so forth and so on. There is no question...I have talked to the judges of the comp court and I realize that this is a concern that they have. Their caseload has increased and the additional judge has increased the number of cases that are processed. But I listened to the hearing, the testimony at the hearing and, as I have said, I have talked to the judges and though I'm sympathetic I think that in balance we have made a reasonable effort to accommodate their concerns. And I think this is one case where we do need to suggest to them that maybe we can look at it again next year but see how...give a little more time to see how that extra judge works through the system. I'm pretty well convinced that we try pretty hard to accommodate the Workmens' Comp Court here in their capital construction and in their additional one person. And also one of the primary concerns that the comp court had, as Senator Warner mentioned, was the processing of statistical information taking over for the federal money that had already been there. Though I understand the need of the comp court I'm sympathetic to it and I'm sympathetic to Senator Hall's arguments. I think, on balance, we have done a pretty good job with the comp court and I would urge that the body, at this stage, reject the amendment and take a look at it in the future. Thank you.