

basically, is my intent and my reasons for introducing the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please. Senator Beck.

SENATOR BECK: I just wanted to speak to the bill. I didn't realize that Senator Smith had amendments.

PRESIDENT: Okay, all right.

SENATOR BECK: So I will wait till the bill and then I will push the light button. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: You bet. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I haven't had a chance to talk with Senator Smith about this, but, as I understand the amendment, it essentially reflects the rules and regulations that have been adopted by the Department of Social Services. They have already addressed the concerns that she has, you realize that probably, but I have no problem with adopting this into the statute because I do feel that fundamentally it is a fair policy. What we found was that there were certain instances where overlap occurred, where a child came back from morning kindergarten, and another child was still there before going to afternoon kindergarten and, for that hour, there really isn't that big a problem for an overlap, and this would allow that situation to occur without having a strict limit of eight, and I don't have any problem with that. That has been the biggest problem we have heard in our hearings around the state, and I think that is the intent of your amendment. And if it is, then I don't have any problem with it, and I would feel comfortable with this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, on the amendment.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the amendment and, as you maybe recall the other day, my question is, how do they determine market rate? And I was always a little skeptical. You know, that could mean a lot of things. I have been assured by counsel that that is a survey of the region and so on, and I think that this amendment then satisfies my concern a lot more on the bill, that it would state specifically what the rate would be and, therefore, I support the amendment.