

this bill is all designed to do. It's designed to put a program in place that will help those small communities in particular, get those landfills up to regulation standards or to help them with contracting with private entities or to help them with going to regional or countywide landfill systems and get out of the business themselves of possibly being liable for the storage of solid waste in the state. This amendment, as I said, is an attempt to clarify some of the points. It brings the price tag of the General Fund down which I think will make Senator Moore and Warner and some others happy and will continue to generate about \$3 million in General Fund support, a little over that, if...or, pardon me, not General Fund support but with the General Fund dollars and the tax on tires and business will generate a fairly healthy amount of money that, hopefully, will be constant year in and year out. You need a constant stream of dollars because this is not, at least in my mind, a one-year program. It's got to be an ongoing program to help continue the process of getting funds available to our communities to handle solid waste problems. And, you know, the catch phrase that I have heard in this Legislature is, we've got to do something about property tax relief this year. Well, if we don't pass this program and these communities are forced either by EPA standards or DEC standards to close their landfills or to license their landfills, it's going to be costly to them. They've got one source to go to, that's property taxes to deal with the problem. This at least will help them, as I see it, with giving them some dollars that they're going to need to bring...bring their landfills up to state and federal regulations that are coming down very soon. That's the basis of the amendment. I would be happy to answer maybe some questions.

SENATOR HANNBAL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I understand we have an amendment to the Johnson amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to amend Senator Johnson's amendment. (The Moore amendment appears on pages 1069-71 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, if it's within the realm of your imagination, picture me as Senator Schimek talking. This is Senator Schimek's amendment and I agree with her and for that reason I'm carrying it. So this is the Schimek amendments that were withdrawn a little bit ago. What this is is a choice on