

Review have the initial hearing of all of those. This says plumbing board will continue to hear those initially, but the Building Board of Review is the first line of appeal. It also...one additional item, a change that it makes is currently the plumbing board has the ability to revoke a license if somebody is practicing the plumbing industry, not following the codes, performing improperly, they can revoke a license but currently they can't suspend it. Suspension is a lesser penalty than revocation. Currently, they either slap the wrist or take away their license entirely. The suspension will give little better authority for the board to police the plumbing code up in the City of Omaha. That's what the changes do. I would answer any questions that any of you may have.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any discussion on the Withem amendment? Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Withem amendment and I would like to say thank you to my colleagues who have put up with this issue off of the floor for the last month or so I guess, hearing both sides of an issue and realizing that for many of you it was a nonissue because it didn't affect your district, didn't affect any district other than the City of Omaha. And I also want to thank Senator Withem, and his staff for that matter, for working closely with us and the representatives from Plumbers Local 16 to sit down and try to save this floor a lot of time and probably a fairly heated debate on pros and cons of this whole issue. As Senator Withem has stated to you, this is a compromise, a worked-out thing that probably leaves nobody perfectly happy and leaves nobody terribly at a major loss. Under this compromise, as Senator Withem pointed out to you, we do have an expansion of the plumbing board which was one of the things that was sought in 1221 to open it up a little bit, to have nonplumbers on the board, people that are involved in the industry in some way but were not plumbers per se, to look at codes, to look at variances and to look at changes of methods of doing things from a more total view as opposed to just from a more narrow scope of a plumber or a plumbing contractor, and that's one of the things this bill does do. What the bill doesn't do now in this amended form, it does not allow the mayor and the city council to move that code revision or code review out of the plumbing board and put it into the Building Board of