

Senator Hannibal. On the first page, Senator Hannibal talked about the suspension, Senator Withem, you've added that particular part to it. Is that up to the plumbing board how long they would suspend the...?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I would say that they would have the authority to suspend for a definite time period is to be determined by them. Currently, they can revoke a license, but they can't suspend it, yeah.

SENATOR HARTNETT: That seems like a good part. And another question I have for you, it seemed like when we heard the bill in the Urban Affairs Committee one of the things that was stressed by the people who were opposed to the bill at the time was dealing with the health issue, and why did you in your amendment or what negotiations and so forth, make that particular person, health officer, a nonvoting member of the plumbing board? Why did you do that, because that seemed to be, when we met and the bill was first heard in our committee, that health officer, I think is, to me seemed to be a very important component of this board, to see that the health regulations are met in the plumbing industry, so why did you make it nonvoting, I guess?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'll give you the real reason first. It was a political trade-off. (laughter) How can you justify doing that is the other question. He'll still be there, Senator Hartnett, he'll still be there as an advisor to the board. The issue was, should we open up the plumbing board with more members than current? Because, you know, using Senator Hannibal's logic, it is in very many ways...it's a closed shop now. It is...consists of four plumbers and the individual from the Health Department and there is no input on the board from people outside of the plumbing industry and the desire of the bill was to open that up to get more representation on, adding three new members, two of them from the design profession who...and then a public at large member was the original intent of the bill. It was our feeling that if we had the chief health officer still a member of the board, but just not a voting member, more of an advisory member, his input can still be there as far as what is likely...to what changes are likely to cause pollution of...I mean, the health process is that if you allow people to just go and throw pipe in the ground any way they want to, it's going to start leaking and you're going to get pollutants ingested into our fresh water system, so it's important that the person be there but not