

excuse me, in the real estate area, in many cases amongst the professionals, are people coming and going and being more involved in the profession, or less involved in terms of population, based on what is going on in the housing market and the like. And so they have a very volatile number or denominator, if you will, because they are cash funded and, therefore, have to generate enough through the fees to pay for the operations. The operations are monitored by this body through our Appropriations Committee and the appropriation legislation in terms of how much money their budget is authorized to have. So they have authorization, we have the oversight in that regard. Then it is up to them to hopefully have enough licensees paying a high enough fee in order to generate enough money to meet that budget. Now in the past for many years, any excess beyond that budget lapses over into the General Fund. So they are in a bit of a squeeze if the fees are not high enough and/or there are not enough licensees purchasing those licenses, paying those fees, to put them into a rather economic precarious situation, and they don't have any flexibility until they come back to the Legislature and try to get those fees adjusted again. So if you look, rather than run the whole laundry list, if you'll look in your bill book under the committee statement, you will see the list of the fees as they currently are in statute, and what those maximum limits would be. Like I say, they have no need to charge more than what is necessary because it is going to lapse into the General Fund anyway. So they've shared with me that they intend to be very conscientious in terms of charging whatever fee is necessary to operate through that approved budget that we have given them. So that is, basically, the concept, having that flexibility of those fees with maximum amounts listed in statute, of giving that flexibility, as well as having this inactive broker status that is also available to some of the brokers who don't want to maintain an ongoing broker's status. So that is the issue. I'd be glad to answer any questions, if I can, and if not, I would appreciate the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there any other discussion on LB 204? Seeing none, Senator Conway, do you wish to close?

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Speaker Baack. The closing would simply be I would like...I'd appreciate the bill being advanced. If anybody has any questions, I'll be glad to answer them and that is all there is for closing.