

that...this is a philosophical question, that...well, let me rephrase it another way. Do you think the cities have the capability on their own to handle this problem without coming to the state and asking for this type of authority?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: That is proven to not be the case. We had...as I mentioned, there was a court case in Falls City that because there was no height limitation in the statutes they could not go out and enforce their law. We had a person that objected to it and he won his case and in this particular case actually money. We had some concerns that were discussed in the hearing on people, elderly people that couldn't afford this and we kind of came to the conclusion that we felt our cities would be very responsible in these cases and in the case at Falls City money was not a question, it was just...I'm not sure what the problem was but they could not enforce their statutes because of that.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Morrissey.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Morrissey, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, as I said, this came out of a court case. Our cities have been trying to clean up the areas, make it more attractive for business, more attractive for the people that are there. And, to be honest with you, as often as I mow my lawn in the summers, they may be coming to get me. But that's fine. That's fine. I think I can get out there and get it mowed in a week. We were concerned with the older folks that might have problems and not be able to afford it and I think our city managers and our city people are reasonable enough that they can work these types of situations out. This is where we have some...where we have real problems and in Falls City it has been a real problem with literally hundreds of people complaining at the city council meetings that they cannot...why can't you enforce this? Why can't we get this section of town cleaned up? It's an eyesore. There's garbage, there's junk, there's rats running around. It's a health nuisance and they just simply haven't been able to do it. This is a very reasonable way allowing them to do it and allow the owner or occupant to have a hearing on the issue, to bring their side of the picture into the question, and I think it's worth support and something that we really need. I urge you to support it. Thanks.