

liability would apply across the board to everybody as it has done historically throughout time and that the issue that Senator Warner is talking about are exemptions and exclusions of liability for political subdivisions in the state, which is an entirely separate issue which should be discussed in a separate bill and there is a vehicle to discuss it. That's...it really isn't that I'm necessarily against talking about it, Senator Robinson, it's just that historically they've always been separated and there's no reason to tie them together here. There's...it's just...it's like apples and oranges.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, let me pose another question. Under your bill with Senator Warner's amendment in it, would there be more suits against subdivisions?

SENATOR ASHFORD: With Senator Warner's amendment in there, you mean if political subdivisions are sued, no, because...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Would they be sued more?

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, absolutely not, because you're not changing anything in that regard, Senator Robinson. Here's what would make an impact, okay. If you excluded certain types of accidents from liability of a municipal subdivision, like an intersec...let's say you decided that a red light/green light case you could never sue the municipality for the design of that intersection. Okay, that would decrease the number of, obviously, the number of suits that you could bring against a municipality for that purpose. The question then becomes a public policy decision by the body. Do we want to exclude the liability of municipalities for that kind of negligence? That's how you either reduce or add to the number of cases. All we're doing, Senator Robinson, is changing the standard of liability, that does not...of comparative fault. That does not increase in any way and there's been no statistics that I have seen...I know you're told this.

SENATOR ROBINSON: No one has told me anything.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I mean the people are told that it's going to increase the number of lawsuits. I've seen nothing to prove that at all. There are laws that...political subdivisions will be sued, as they are today, there's no difference.

SENATOR ROBINSON: In other words, you're telling me putting in