

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Senator, does the executive director now, do they have to be an attorney?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Pardon?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Does the executive director have to be an attorney?

SENATOR PIRSCH: No, no, and actually a hearing officer who has been doing this time after time, we have those rules set very clearly in statute as to what provisions have to be followed and then it goes before the board, the Reparations Board for review.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well, aren't we further restricting then if we allow the director to be the only one?

SENATOR PIRSCH: No, because...

SENATOR CHIZEK: I don't see where he can delegate to any other employees the right to conduct a hearing. That's...you've got more than one person conducting them now.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Actually, I did talk to Jim Joneson about that and he sees no problem with that.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well, he...I do. I think it's going to create a problem. We have a problem now with expedited hearings as a result of pro bono work by attorneys.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Right.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Isn't that what you said?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, and I believe...

SENATOR CHIZEK: Okay, and now we want to further limit it, Senator, one person.

SENATOR PIRSCH: He can still use them.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well that's not what the amendment says I don't believe.