

SENATOR PIRSCH: Let me get the amendment.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Says the executive director shall conduct hearings, take testimony...you know. Maybe I've missed where it allows other people to do it, but I think I read it, I took it, and I just read it very quickly, Senator, but I took it to mean that he and he alone, or she or she alone, who ever is there, is the one that conducts the hearing. Well, Senator, why don't we...you can check and...I would...Senator Pirsch is going to do some checking and I'm going to do some checking here too. I have a little bit of a problem if that's what we're doing, if we're further restricting it. I don't have a problem if we're, Senator, if we're still allowed to use outside attorneys, but I don't think it should be restricted in statute to the Director of the Crime Commission without the authority to designate other people to conduct the hearings.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, I shall look for that now because I think he feels that this does give him the authority to designate, but if we need to add a phrase, I'll be glad to look at that.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well I would support it if we did that. I cannot support it until we do that, Senator.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Would anyone else care to speak on the Pirsch amendment? Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Pirsch, I apologize, did not hear your explanation of what this amendment does and have just looked in my bill book and I guess I need a summary from you, if you would.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, this is the same as LB 102 which allows the Executive Director of the Crime Commission to make initial determinations on claims received for compensation. It just takes the place of pro bono lawyers because there were not enough lawyers and, quite frankly, they were not giving enough time and there are about 80 to 100 cases which need to go through that step before they go to the committee which actually makes the determination.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And what Senator Chizek then was saying is