

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I want to go on record supporting the committee amendments. I was the person responsible for bringing this issue to the Appropriations Committee. I think the information brought out in the hearing was good information. I concur with what Senator Withem said about the Professional Practices Commission. The role has changed since the investigation part of the PPC has been turned over to the commissioner, and with the increase, it will give the opportunity to the Department of Education and their certification division to begin computerization of their process there and we will be able to get certificates out in a much faster manner. And I would urge you to support the committee amendments and the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, obviously, given the time frame we are working under here, the Appropriations Committee has not actually met and has not, as a committee, we've not simply taken the time to take an official position on this particular amendment. I guess I only rise in support of it, and if you care to follow along on the fiscal note, I will tell you how this amendment will change the fiscal note. Obviously, the Education Committee amendment will change the fee, instead of raising it from 25 to 50 dollars, raise it from 25 to 40 dollars, and then it will raise the certificate fee from 12.50, not to 32, but to 30 dollars. The actual dollar amounts of what is going to happen then is of the \$40 fee, \$30 will go to the teacher's certificate, and \$10 go to the PPC. The actual dollars amount that it amounted to by increasing to 17.50 the increase in the teacher's certification process, it will increase the amount of cash going to that program \$131,250, and by decreasing by \$2.50 from 12.50 down to 10 the amount that goes to the PPC, you are actually going to realize about a \$15,000 decrease, which goes toward the PPC. Now as far... I think, I take just a minute to understand once again why this will was brought forward. Originally, in the Appropriations Committee process, there was a request in the Department of Education for \$100,000 to computerize the teachers certification division over in the department. It was discussed with a variety of individuals, both in the committee and out of the committee, as far as instead of using General Funds to do that, that the teacher's certification fee had not been changed in some time, it'd certainly be maybe an appropriate method of