

Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I have some questions of Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: How many cases like this would you receive in a year? Do you have any idea?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I'm aware of two from last year, two attorneys that have mentioned it to me, but it's hard to tell because if you've got medical payments that are a couple hundred dollars, people aren't going to be, it's not worth them pursuing it so on some of the smaller ones it's hard to tell. I am aware of two. How many there are, I don't know.

SENATOR ROBINSON: My next question is that I had to chuckle a little when you made the comment that lawyers are going to get paid anyway, Senator Lindsay, I sort of chuckled at that one. But how do we know they wouldn't get paid more? I mean, if they're getting money from the workmen's comp, how do we know they wouldn't raise their fees?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Because they can bill the court all they want, but the court sets the fee the way the court wants to. The attorney doesn't set the fee on those...under this amendment. It is up to the work comp court to do that and actually it's the other direction. The work comp court tends to set fees lower than what market rate I guess.

SENATOR ROBINSON: But couldn't you still charge whatever your...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Charge the client more?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR LINDSAY: You could, but what happens is, at least in my experience, that clients do tend to shop on prices.

SENATOR ROBINSON: They shop for lawyers?

SENATOR LINDSAY: They sure do.