

sentencing where a judge would order certain probationary terms in which those individuals would have to complete different types of alcohol abuse courses or counselling. I feel that this is a first step in determining what the level of an individual's abuse would be and what help that the state and other agencies can help these people with. So I am willing to support this amendment. It's a good amendment and I thank Senator David Bernard-Stevens for bringing it in.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to support the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I believe at present it's current practice in at least a number of the counties right now in terms of the assessment that is required for pre-sentencing purposes, and I have not seen the...a copy of the amendment, but it is I think very appropriate. As I said, I believe that in many cases it's current practice, if you will, so I would urge adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: If I could just ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a question, so I...

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, do you yield to a question? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you indicated in your amendment, and I don't have it in front of me, maybe I should, but that the cost would be borne by the defendant and do you have any idea what that cost would be?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, sir.

SENATOR ASHFORD: And is this assessment the kind of assessment that is done, I agree with, I think it's absolutely, you're right, I think it already is the practice in Douglas County, I don't know about the other counties, but do you have any idea what the...right now it's paid by, I don't think the defendants pay it, or do they now?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator, if I can just take a minute. The law as it is now reads as following, at the discretion of the court any person convicted of violating this section or any