

missed it on General File, and also unaware...second confession is I missed it on Select File with it was voiced over. I felt that at least I need to try to run this amendment on the third round debate, Final Reading, because of the people that I'm trying to help. Senator Schimek's bill, 153, which was added by the committee amendments, increased the marriage license portion from \$10 to \$15, the total amount. And that \$5 extra was going to go to the counties for administrative purposes because they were not receiving enough dollars to compensate for the time that they were putting in on the administration of this fund. What this amendment will do is simply increase the marriage fee up to a total of \$25. So the marriage license, if this amendment were agreed to, would be \$25. The extra \$10 that I would add with this amendment, if the body so chose, would go to the domestic violence and abuse. I'm very...over the last few years, being on the Appropriations Committee and in the Legislature, I've become very frustrated on what we have been unable to do for lack of dollars, from time to time, for the domestic violence and abuse programs. And we've always been trying to find a fund that might do some help...provide some help, further help in this particular area. I had a bill that was introduced last year that would have done the same thing. The bill passed out of the Health Committee unanimously, it was brought to the floor very late, consequently it was not able to be heard because of the time that we had left in the session. I also introduced the same bill this year. Unfortunately the Executive Board decided on the referencing to put it to the Appropriations Committee, and as most of you know they do not hold hearings until late March on any of their bills. So the first chance to have a hearing would have been in late March. My sense was that if I waited until that portion, that time period, that the body may not be willing to increase the same fee twice on two different bills in the same session. So I felt I was between a rock and a hard place, so I decided to go ahead and try, for the sake of the areas of domestic violence and abuse, to see if the Legislature would be willing to put the dollars into this particular area. The fee...\$10 dollars increase would go to the Cash Fund. And if you look at the amendment that was handed out early so people had chance to look at it, that would be to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Cash Fund, that's a cash fund that's already in existence within the Department of Social Services. And Senator Witek was asking me the question, in Section 3, what does the word department mean. That would be the Department of Social Services which already administers the fund. So the