

Wickersham, Warner, Kristensen, Schellpeper and Will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, were you present when the bill to raise the fee on the marriage license was heard by your committee, the Revenue Committee? He was not there either. Okay, I don't... Senator Warner, were you there? You were on the phone, that's why I didn't ask for you to answer a question right away. What precisely did the people, who said this fee increase is needed, give as resulting in an increase in what they do?

SENATOR WARNER: Again, Senator Chambers, the response is similar to what Senator Schimek indicated, which was that the general cost of operating had gone up since it was...and I forgot how long ago it was last changed, but it was quite a long period of time, and the committee approved that minor increase in relation to that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But they didn't specify, for example, having to hire another person or cut into what the person who...did they say that there is one person who handles all marriage license applications?

SENATOR WARNER: It would be more of a case, in fact, we've had other amendments along the same line for fee changes, but it's more of a case that the overhead operating cost of the office has gone up. Some portion of that is from marriage licenses as well as the other fees that they collect, the other taxes that they collect. I quite agree with you that fees are taxes, but the presentation was on the basis that those costs had gone up and this was one of the several fees that are being asked in different committees to be increased to cover those overhead operating...normal operating costs. It was not...I do not recall that issuing a marriage license per se had gone up as much as the general operation of the cost of the office which included all of those (inaudible).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And then this question. Did...did they...there were several times, Senator Warner, when your voice dropped and I took a breath to get ready to speak and then you continued so I was frustrated. Did they indicate that issuing a marriage license constitutes a substantial amount of the work that they do in any given day? Or is it a relatively insignificant part of it?