

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Chambers, I do not recall that there was a specific comment as to the relative amount of work. I know we have pursued that question in some other areas, the Assessor's Office are in the process of doing it now, but, in this particular issue, that question was not posed. What I recall, it was more of a general operation, but Senator Schimek may have some refinement to that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I think we all probably could have speculated as to what the answer to the question would have been, and we would have arrived at the point where Senator Warner brought us by his answer. There is not a great amount of work involved in the issuing of a marriage license. Issuing marriage licenses is not a substantive part of the work that is done by any county employee. They are talking about a general overhead, then let their county board appropriate them some money instead of picking out something like a marriage license where there is no constituency to challenge it and sneak in a hidden fee increase of 50 percent. It does not take a 50 percent increase in this fee to fund the relatively small amount of time taken by county employees to issue marriage licenses. There is not that much to do. There are not even these tests that used to have to be taken which would require any time in terms of discussion or filling out of boxes or lines or anything else. What I wish the body would do is return this bill and strike Section 1, then if the counties, which I don't believe they can do, could show that there was a need to increase this fee, another bill will come along to which an amendment could be attached. But Senator Cudaback's bill was aimed at something other than increasing this fee. What I'm hoping is that now we'll look beyond just the increase in the tax. I call it a tax increase when it's done in this fashion because it's not something for which you get anything in return. A taxing agency has the power to tax, so a tax is levied. Senator Hartnett was telling me about a 25-cent stamp or an increase of 25 cents in a stamp that would be put on a document in one of the county offices and the committee killed that bill, 25 cents and they killed that. You know why? Because there probably was a constituency of people who did not want to pay more for this tax that goes on this document and the committee acceded to their request and killed that bill. When it comes to an undifferentiated group or constituency or however we would characterize people who will eventually get a marriage license, there is no spokesperson, no voice. If I wouldn't speak against some of these fee increases,