

and I assume it was correct, that it was strictly an increase in the administrative costs. Senator Chambers is absolutely correct when he says that a fee is a tax, and I'm certainly not going out here and trying to hide a tax, so he is correct there and I do agree with that. But I was told that it was an administrative cost and I am one for...we should pay our own way. We should pay our own way, and I think this is one way to do it, increase the fees on certain things if warranted. And I reiterate, I was told that it did and I would assume that was correct. But I just want to say that I am not for raising taxes either via a hidden...a hidden fee such as this, but I think perhaps it is warranted in this case. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY PRESIDING

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you Senator Cudaback. Anyone further wishing to discuss the motion to return? Senator Chambers, to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chair Creature and members of the Legislature, I am serious about asking you to return this bill so that we can strike Section 1. Once stricken, that would leave Senator Cudaback's bill intact, as he wanted it when he introduced it. I will just emphasize one point that I was trying to make the last time around. The people who came down to support this bill are talking about, as Senator Warner phrased it, a general increase in overhead for their offices and their activities. I'm sure you can find activities performed by these county officers and employees which take a much more substantial bite out of their time than issuing these marriage licenses, but those activities are performed for or in conjunction with because of strong constituencies that say, we're not going to let you increase the fee that you charge us. So they say, where can we find a group which will have no spokesperson, no lobbyist, no organization and it can slide through. The marriage license was selected and that's why they want the increase of 50 percent on this, not that what they're doing costs 50 percent more than what it's costing now. I will bet if they broke out the actual amount of time consumed by issuing marriage licenses, they would hang their head in shame if they were not totally shameless. So I hope you will return this bill and strike Section 1. Because we're on Final Reading and are allowed to wander around, I'm going to try to save time by asking for a call of the house because I probably would anyway.