

before the Legislature, and, obviously, that is not...not a fact, and so I just wanted to take this opportunity on this particular motion to bring that to everyone's attention once again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Just a word or two with Senator Wehrbein, if I might.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator, I don't want to go back and rehash over again, I think you already did a couple of times, but you indicated...first of all, let me tell you I am supporting this amendment simply because I think these services that are provided, and much of it volunteer, is very important and we need to continue it, so I, as one of the people who helped to develop the EMT service in my immediate community, I support these kind of efforts. But one of the things I want to get back to, and the question I want to get clear in my mind is you made an indication that this was either inadvertently left out or for whatever reason, and if I recall, you said something about there could be funds made available without this \$60,000 being in the budget, if you could (interruption) me that.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I am just saying, I didn't know for sure. I thought maybe there could. I think I heard Senator Brashear said closer inspection said there couldn't be. I...I can't honestly say that there is or there isn't. It would seem like out of the size of the budget, there could be, but, on the other hand, we've squeezed the health agency fairly tightly this year, I will say that.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the only point I wanted to make is that I certainly support this. If there were other ways this could be funded, obviously, that would be a wonderful idea, as far as I am concerned. But my main point is that I would certainly hate to see this not done at the expense of a lot of people out there who have put in a lot of time, and I'm certainly very conscious of the things that they are doing. So to deny those kind of people some assistance would be wrong, in my opinion, and I just want to make clear that, in fact, it would appear