

the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd have to rise and have to oppose the amendment as proposed for a variety of reasons that I want to touch on, but it is also true that everybody knows I am not a fan of tax incentives. Never have been, and I've only made a mistake once or twice and voted for a bill that did it, but most of the time I voted no. But as I look at the amendment, and unless I'm misreading it, there is a significant difference how the calculation is made. I believe 1368, in determining that average salary in which they get or the salary in which they get a credit, it's the total FTEs divided by the total compensation, and whatever that average salary is, it has to be at least above 20,000, and if it is 30,000, the credit is higher and so forth. But as I read Senator Wesely's amendment, it appears to me that it says that each new employee must receive at least 20,000 plus health benefits, and that, I am sure, is a laudable goal, but then I begin to think, if I understand how it would work, that you would have to keep track of each employee, and I am not sure, as you have turnover, which certainly happens in a large firm, if an individual is there only for ten months instead of the full twelve, does that mean that they are not counted, or it seems to refer not to the job or the position but to the individual, and I can imagine the administrative cost both to the company that might be involved, and for that matter to the State Department of Revenue for auditing to be significant in order to monitor whether or not the company was in compliance with the...with the provisions of the amendment. Again, I understand the goal, probably have a great deal of sympathy for the goal, but it would appear to me that this could be very cumbersome to operate, and I think, certainly, the basis that is there in the bill, which no credit is given unless at least their average salaries are 20 percent is certainly a strong step in the right direction, but I would be concerned that as this is drafted, if I am reading it correctly, it could become exceedingly difficult to administer, and exceedingly difficult to keep track of, and probably would be subject to a lot of interpretation. Again, these are the kind of issues raised, however, that need to be raised, that need to be taken into account on any kind of a cost/benefit model, and if a cost/benefit model is...can be successfully done, obviously, I think these kind of things would be a plus in the merit of future proposed applications or programs. But at this point, as I understand the amendment, it