

say, after...the committee's analysis finally was that we believed that by changing the standard to one of prima facie evidence that we merely allowed the firefighter to have their day in court and to meet the initial motions that could be brought to have their...to have the case discharged. And I will say again that we believe that they would still have a burden of going forward with proof and establishing their cause of action.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. On the Will amendment we have three lights on: Senator Fisher, Senator Will, and Senator Hillman. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. President and members, be brief. I just rise in support of this amendment. I think it's important that the...we have this. The firefighters are a very protective branch of our society. They, perhaps as far as police, they go far beyond the call of duty in many cases, particularly in fire instances with children being involved. So I ask for your support of this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Waive.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of Senator Will, if I could.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Just some clarification for me. This is only paid professional firefighters and paramedics, is that correct?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Hillman, that's correct. The way the amendment reads is for a firefighter or a firefighter-paramedic who is a member of a paid fire department of a municipality or a rural or suburban fire protection district, and I would interpret that to mean the rank and file firefighters would have to be paid in order to be covered under this.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, so if I had a volunteer fire department but the chief is the only paid member of that fire department in that municipality, would the chief then be covered here, not the