

SENATOR BROMM: I've never known to be able to get one from them that wasn't certified. That's why I question whether they will furnish it...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...without being certified.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I'd just kind of like to remind some of the speakers today that it is not the fee nor the service that we are criticizing in this debate, and it is not privatization nor free enterprise that we are discouraging in this debate. And to talk about one specific copy of a birth certificate or any document that is provided by government and can be provided by any form, whether it be electronic or hard copy, the largest cost in any kind of information is the entering and the updating, keeping that information current, and then storing the information. That is a big cost of any kind of information. Now what we're talking about is after that large cost is taken by the government, by taxpayers, and you have a request for the recovery of a specific document, I don't care what it is, or information, and then how do we deliver that information or document upon demand by a customer. And that's really what we're looking at, not...not criticizing what service is being provided. Certainly, however, because the cost is borne by the taxpayers, the largest one, we have a right and we have a duty and a responsibility to look at the fees that our same taxpayers or others, who do not pay taxes to accumulate this information, are paying for this information. Now if an agency according to Section 4, which Senator Chambers is striking the reference to, that agency is desiring to enter into a contract alone or in cooperation with, and if no fee is specified by state law, shall provide a written report to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, 30 days, and so forth. Now that is some legislative oversight at least until this can be taken on by a task force, and some kind of specific policy can be put in place. Making a profit is commendable, but when the government does the work and provides a monopoly on that information, that is hardly free enterprise. And privatization is a wonderful thing to do but it should be used by government when it can either provide a better service than government at less cost or more beneficial. So forget