

concerned about it. There was previous legislation that they had opposed, and they came to myself, Senator Kristensen, and I'm sure some of the others on the floor here to talk about the question about impact of this, fiscal impact on the cities to accomplish the intent of the amendment. At first the thought was to repeal the amendment. But the feeling was that the better route to take would be to delay the implementation of the amendment, and that's what this amendment from Senator Kristensen and myself proposes. Rather than have the changes proposed by Senator Will take effect this year, the idea is, and the amendment calls for the amendment to take effect June 1 of next year. What this allows is the cities that have expressed a concern the chance to do a review of the language and to bring in expert...experts to examine whether or not this will have a significant impact or not on the cities. There is some question as to its impact. And they don't have the chance now, with the time situation that we have, to get back a definitive review of the costs so that we can know whether or not this is a step we want to take, or whether or not it is too expensive a change in the statutes. I think that this is a reasonable compromise, in my view, to try to allow the cities a chance to get back to us with some specific information that they can't now provide to backup their concerns, or if in fact they find, after reviewing this further, that they don't have sufficient grounds to be concerned, the bill can take effect next year and we won't see it reviewed again. So I think I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Kristensen, to allow him a chance to comment. But I feel comfortable with this as a reasonable effort to address the concerns the cities have while maintaining the amendment in statute until we have further evidence that we need to repeal it. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give the rest of my time to Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, and thank you, Senator Wesely, for part of the opening. I did not vote for the Will amendment that was adopted last week. It was done, obviously, at the end of very long day. To Senator Will's credit, the amendment was in the Journal for a period of time, and as we all know at the end of the session, there is a number of other issues out here. However, this amendment that Senator Wesely is offering and I've cosigned offers us an opportunity to perhaps minimize what may be some