

damage done in this issue. First of all, what this issue is all about is probably two of the more controversial and maybe popular things that there are. Firefighters are extremely popular. I know of no one that doesn't like firefighters. That's not the issue. The other is the dreaded word of "cancer". I know of no one that likes it and I know of no one that it doesn't strike some fear in, whether they profess it or not. But taking that aside, what this amendment does is, basically, says that if someone demonstrates that they had, at the time of their entry into being a firefighter or their service or hiring, had a physical examination or, if they didn't have one when they first came in, if they had one later and there was no evidence of cancer and, basically, they are exposed to a known carcinogen or, quite frankly, even a suspected one, and I don't know what that is and Senator Will and I will have a short discussion about that later, and if that carcinogen is reported by an agency that I am not really sure who it is, I know...I don't know if it is a government agency, I don't think it is, it's an International Agency for Research on Cancer, that all of a sudden that becomes a presumption, what we call prima facie evidence, that that occurred in the line of duty. I don't know how many people this affects. I don't know if a study is even possible to determine how many people this affects, and I don't know the financial impact of doing that. My first reaction was just to oppose it and say I don't like it because I think that it, one, is it opens up a huge Pandora's box about what is a suspected carcinogen. We are going to delegate that to some agency that I know nothing about, that makes me nervous. And as we came through this debate, there were a lot of unanswered questions. I still think there are a lot of unanswered questions, and if we are going to have some certainty and, as we've all found out dealing with other retirement benefits, the issue of certainty is one that is always out there. And I hate to borrow Senator Wickersham's quotes, but, at this point in time, this could be dealing with many, many, many dollars, and the impact of it is unknown. What Senator Wesely proposes, and I agree, is that we at least ought to delay this a year to see if there is the opportunity to find out some of the answers to this; to go ahead and do it, not on a bill that was amended on Select File near the end of the session, and to try to make sure and lay some calm to the fears that this is a huge change, which I think it is, and that it opens up a broad category, particularly in the area that it is going to be presumed now. It doesn't talk about how much