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FLOOR DEBATE

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simply...you can't go 16 years on...you know, and not raise your fees, I don't think. I mean, it just didn't happen.

SENATOR SMITH: They've been at their ceiling for 15 years?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yeah.

SENATOR SMITH: So they immediately went to the ceiling upon the adoption of the current fees?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yeah. They had a set fee and they could not go over that by statute. They cannot raise their fees. We have to allow them. That's what we're doing right now. They cannot just say, we're going to raise our fees. Some groups, there's no limit. There are agencies, inspectors, where they can raise. But by statute, give them permission to raise any fee they want to raise. Follow me? They cannot just say, well, we're behind here, we're running behind, I'm going to raise my inspection fee from \$10 to \$30. They can't do that. They have to come to the Legislature and we have to give them permission.

SENATOR SMITH: Understand. Yes, I understand that. It...my question is, if, for example, the contractor exam is changed from \$62.50 to a maximum of \$125, was that \$62.50 a maximum prior?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes. Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: But 15 years ago, they went clear to the ceiling.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I don't think there was a...they just set a flat fee, and that was the ceiling. That's the maximum they could charge by statute. That was in...that \$62.50 was in statute. That was it.

SENATOR SMITH: As a ceiling?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes. Yes. That was it.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay.