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FLOOR DEBATE

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Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I have here the fiscal note prepared by the Fiscal Office which shows that no General Fund revenue is anticipated to exceed expenses and, you know, I trust what the Fiscal Office does on a bill. Why shouldn't we? We do on every other bill. And they even had a little bit extra to accommodate cost of applications above the estimates. The State Patrol estimates the first year applications will be around 19,000, and then will drop to 5,000 annually, so with that drop, chances are the fee will probably need to drop because of the concurrent drop in the cost of administering the program. On the public safety issue, if you look on page 9, Section 13 of the Final Reading copy of the bill, it says any police officer having probable cause to believe that a permitholder is no longer in compliance with one or more of the requirements of Section 7, they can bring an application for revocation of the permit to be prosecuted. So, you know, if they have a working knowledge of a problem of any kind that they want to question the person about or feel that they're not safe, they have the right in the bill already to do that. I believe that returning to Select File in Senator Foley's bill is a bit different because Senator Landis has agreed to vote for the bill if his amendment is added. I don't think I'm in that situation with this bill here. This bill was introduced January of last year. It lay on General File for the better part of a year, and then it was debated for eight hours on General File, more than four hours on Select File, and most of the amendments that were filed to it were offered by colleagues that really intended to weaken the bill, and they have no intention of ever supporting it with or without their amendments. And there were a few serious amendments that the body was not able to consider because we've not been able to get past the weakening amendments. And to those of you who did file the serious amendments to the bill, I'm sorry that those proposals didn't get to see floor debate but, you know, I don't think it's inaccurate or unfair to say that that's not my fault. Now we're on Final Reading. We got a clean bill and it's time to enact it. The time for further change has passed. If I'm returned to the Legislature, there are issues that need to be attended in the future, I want to assure my colleagues that I'll