

CLERK: Senator Beutler moves to amend. I have AM0953 in front of me, Senator. (Amendment appears on page 1120 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I want to direct your attention to the tax aspects of this particular bill and I've tried to bring nothing to your attention but those things that I think are extremely important. And you may want to look and orient yourself to page 28 of the now...of the amendment which is now the bill, starting with Section 13. And you may recall that under that particular vision, vision, under that provision the way that the money is generated to establish this regulatory program is through a fee of \$100 on each of the six to 7,000 pesticides that will be required to be registered. And then it goes on to say, except that the fee may be increased or decreased by the director after a public hearing, et cetera, et cetera, but in no event shall the fee exceed \$150. AM0593 that has been passed out to you basically does away with the registration fee that is in the bill and substitutes for that a registration fee that is one-quarter of one penny per dollar of gross retail sales. It would continue to be a tax on the manufacturer as is the current tax. My theory is basically this. I think that the mechanism of a registration fee for purposes of a registration program that is solely a registration program where the registration fee is an equal dollar amount for everybody registering is appropriate, is appropriate for the purposes of covering the cost of registration because, theoretically, it probably costs about the same, whether you're a large pesticide dealer or a small pesticide dealer, it probably costs about the same to go through the paperwork to register you. But once you get beyond mere registration and you're into a regulatory program where you're hiring people to go out and take care and watch for pollution caused by different pesticides, then you're into a completely different matter. And a registration fee is not appropriate because some people are selling millions of dollars worth of pesticides and other people are selling very little at all. And some people are causing a great deal of pollution and other people are causing little or none. And so what this amendment would do would be to basically say that a better measure, not a perfect measure, but a better measure is to simply charge the different pesticides in accordance with the volume being used in the state. There are certain materials,