

support that. But I'm trying to figure out how...just how this is going to be accomplished by this legislation. When you talk about shoddy contractors, it's my understanding that a state contract, you have to put up 100 percent surety bond, a work...bond. And here we're talking about a surety bond, 5 percent or what was it?

SENATOR LYNCH: The amendment was (inaudible).

SENATOR VRTISKA: Surety bond for each job over \$5,000 in value a bond could be greater than 1,000 or 5 percent of the value. And I guess what I'm saying is that some of these contractors, some of these shoddy contractors we've been talking about, some of those have got an empty lot for an address.

SENATOR LYNCH: Um-huh.

SENATOR VRTISKA: And I guess I'm trying to figure out if they do a lousy job and leave, how's this going to protect the people we're trying to protect? And I understand what you're trying to do, and I agree with it. I guess I'm just wondering how this is going to...how this is going to accomplish that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, in a lot of ways. First of all, if a shoddy contractor has a lot, at least they have something to go after. The bill provides that the Department of Labor can, in fact, do that. It also provides if that shoddy contractor that has that lot is not registered, you know, then hopefully that would identify that person as not responsible enough to take your money and do whatever work you want to be done. Shoddy contractors come in all sizes, shapes and forms. But we've got an awful lot of good, legitimate contractors in this state. You're talking about contractors, we can name subcontractors, and general contractors, and specialists, interior decorators, and all the rest. They are not the problem. They are not the kind of people anybody is trying to protect anybody else from. The people we want to get at with this, and by using the Department of Labor as a tool, and by registering anybody who would like to call themselves a contractor, have a chance to protect that person, unknowing and in fact to probably susceptible to sweet talk and to somebody claiming that they need a furnace after throwing a smoke bomb in it, or punching a hole through the roof saying you can see the sunlight, and all of those terrible things that happened in the past and continue to happen. This kind of...without this kind of bill the state