

do everything outside basically of municipal government. Now the municipality does do some things for them. It maintains a workmen's comp coverage policy for them. It maintains life insurance for them, at least typically. So there are some things that municipalities do for them. These volunteer fire companies or departments, as they are sometimes referred to, also exist for rural or suburban fire protection districts, and they have roughly the same problems as volunteer fire departments acting within the boundaries of municipalities have. So LB 516 very simply started out to say that those funds that are raised separately from tax dollars, through raffles, fund drives, et cetera, are not public dollars, and because they are not public dollars, we are not going to treat them like tax dollars under the budget act. We are going to separate them out and let the volunteer fire department handle those as anyone else would handle private funds from a separate charity, such as, the Lions, or the church, or any other organization. So that's what LB 516 started out to do. The committee amendment points out that it was initially drafted a little bit too broadly. I have filed a subsequent amendment that I suppose we will take up next, and that indicates that the bill was drafted too narrowly, so it's both too broad and too narrow, and once we get all done, we will have a nicely, I won't say, bracketed, but nicely focused and hope you will be able to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. An amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Wickersham would move to amend with AM1845. (See page 1910 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I am sorry to bother the body with so many amendments on this bill, but the amendment that I bring to you now was a product of a meeting in the Speaker's office with representatives from the League of Municipalities and other interested parties. As I indicated, the committee amendment indicated that the bill was drafted too broadly. Now this amendment indicates that it was originally drafted too narrowly. It deals with...the amendment deals with a couple of areas. One is whether or not a municipality would have any liability for the expenditure of funds, these raised dollars, not the tax dollars. The amendment very simply says that, no, the municipality doesn't have any liability by reason