

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I would respectfully oppose the motion. It is kind of interesting, this bill has been up here on Final Reading, and at various stages, and had a multitude of amendments, from almost the second week of the session. And you know it was one of the three or four top task force bills. It creates the whole risk manager system. I can give you the reasons why they want to do this way, to have an appointed board of, supposedly, experts in the area of claims, because when you are adjudicating or deciding millions of dollars of claims against the state, they believe you should have some experts in the field of maybe tort liability, whatever the various things are that the people would be claiming against, rather than simply a Lieutenant Governor, who may or may not be an expert, who may have delegated that responsibility to somebody else, so on and so forth. I support it will work either way, quite frankly. I am not going to say it won't. All I can say is the people that worked on the bill from the Insurance Department to the task force officials to representatives of the Governor's Office, so on and so forth, concluded that a better system would be to have supposedly experts in the field of claims appointed rather than just have people on that board merely as a result of their having been elected to a certain office. As I say, do what you want. I give you very simply the reasons why the bill is in the form it is and why it is not just elected officials. There were some people on the Claims Board currently, as I understand it, that were disgruntled about this one particular part of the bill and it is kind of obvious that they raised it at the last minute. I think they could have done it earlier. We discussed it with them. I think it would be wiser to go ahead and pass the bill as it is now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the return for specific amendment of Senator Vickers motion. Senator Vickers, do you want to close on your motion?

SENATOR VICKERS: Very briefly, Mr. President. Mr. President, members, in response to Senator DeCamp's comments, let me again apologize for just now catching that section in this bill. As Senator DeCamp says, I know it has been here before. All of the bills that get over to Final Reading have obviously been here before. Now maybe I am just not as quick a reader as some people are, maybe I just don't study them as much as some people do, but I just now caught it and I apologize for that but it does seem to me that it is a significant policy decision that we are making. I think we should all be aware of it. Senator DeCamp indicates that