

another very important difference between the amendments sponsored by Senator Nichol and the bill as written. The bill as written would extend the court's jurisdiction as of the effective date of this act and the emergency clause is on this bill so it will go into effect as soon as the Governor signs it if we pass it this year, to extend jurisdiction of the court over persons like Simants and Mrs. Alvarez and Mr. Cribbs. Now, Mr. Goc and Senator Nichol think that there are constitutional problems with attempting to extend the jurisdiction of the court over people that are currently committed. We think that there are no constitutional problems with that provided those people are accorded all of their due process rights. We think it is important to at least make an attempt to immediately assert court jurisdiction over people like Mrs. Alvarez and Mr. Cribbs and Mr. Simants so that the court will retain jurisdiction over those persons for the duration...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Thank you, Governor, for the duration of their commitment and not to leave the duration of their commitment with the Mental Health Commitment Board. Now I would remind you in those cases, those individuals could continue under commitment for five or ten or fifteen or twenty years and we think it is important if we can to extend the jurisdiction over those persons, extend the court's jurisdiction over those persons now. Now, we are setting up a different system. We are treating these people differently. We are treating them according to a different structure. In the process of doing so we are maintaining the integrity of the Mental Health Commitment Act and the integrity of the standard in the Mental Health Commitment Act and I think it is important for us to do this because otherwise the political temptation of this body is going to be to go in and change the Mental Health Commitment Act and I don't think any of us feel that needs to be done with the exception of people that have been through the criminal process. Now there are a lot of other things that I could say. I will simply ask you to read the handout that we passed out. We have requested an Attorney General's opinion on the Final Reading version of this bill which is quite different than the version the Attorney General rendered us his earlier opinion on. I would ask you to stick with us in this measure and to reject the Nichol-DeCamp amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce from Senator Sieck's district, some 27 third and fourth grade students and four adults from Pleasant Dale, Marjorie Tauriella, teacher, up here in the North balcony with Senator Sieck. Would you welcome them to the Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator Kilgarin.