

preclude individuals who are younger or older than that who may do a good job on that commission from ever even having the opportunity to run. I think ultimately it is the voters who will have the opportunity to decide who will be qualified and who will not to serve on the Public Service Commission. All that we are saying is that an individual older or younger than that might have a chance to run. At that point people can decide through the ballot box whether or not they want to elect that individual. I think that is a fair reason to adopt this amendment. I think it also should be clear that it is past the filing deadline, it doesn't apply to anybody concerned with the Public Service Commission offices of this year. I'm talking philosophically, I'm talking just about practical statutory guidelines that it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to keep this provision in. Let's go to 21 years and older. If it's good enough for the Legislature which controls a lot of activities of the Public Service Commission, it should be good enough for the Public Service Commission. The co-sponsor of the amendment with me, Senator Kremer, I guess, I don't know if he wants to talk to it, but we have talked it over and thought that it would just make sense to allow people the opportunity to at least run for office at an age over the age of 21. That is the background and that is the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members I object to this amendment. I object to it on the fact that it has not had a public hearing. It was never brought up under this bill on the public hearing that we had on the bill. Why they have to be 30 years of age and 68 I don't know. I know that it has been in the law a long time. Now, there was also a bill up, Senator Carsten has it, 803, to appoint the commissioners instead of electing them. They have decided to hold that for an interim study. That is fine. This should also be in that interim study. I don't know, I'm sure that Senator Wesely doesn't know why you have to be 30 years of age and you can't run if you are over 68. There must be a reason because it has been in there a long time, in the law. But this has not had a public hearing, I don't think that it should ever be amended on the floor, you are changing the whole law. It has been there a long, long time. I don't think it is right to do that. It has been said on this floor, I don't know how many times, do not rewrite the whole law on the floor. Have a public hearing on it. This has not had a public hearing. I would certainly suggest that you do not vote for this amendment. Thank you.