

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, do you wish to have this be your closing? There are no other lights on.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, I would be glad to.

PRESIDENT: All right.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I was going to call the question anyway.

PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: To address Senator Landis's concern, I mean, we make certain presumptions about classes of people whenever we pass legislation. The tax incentive programs come to mind. I mean, we make certain assumptions that certain businesses should be given tax advantages or certain groups of people. We shouldn't have a tax on food, for example. That doesn't mean that not everybody cannot afford not to pay the tax on food. But you promote it as a social good. And I think the presumption is that persons over 60 years of age have more experience than others. They have a general more wisdom than other people. They have been...they have had careers in employment and in professional areas. There is an implicit assumption that they would contribute to the classroom. And the great thing about this bill is I think it alleviates any concern Senator Landis may have about any persons coming into the classroom who are maybe there without that hunger for learning, as he calls it, or without the experience necessary. The provision that would eliminate his concern is that the instructor has the individual discretion whether or not to allow that person into class. So each instructor in each class, when that person comes to him and says, I would like to take this class, I am over 60 years of age, there is a statute there that allows me to do it on a nontuition, noncredit basis, with your permission would you allow me? The instructor can then say, why are you interested in the class? What are your reasons for taking it? What's your background? What's your experience? That individual teacher has that discretion and can certainly exercise it. And if, in fact, that instructor believes that a person is not there, and would not serve to contribute to the class, that instructor does not have to give his permission in order for that person to attend. And, in fact, I...so I don't think that's a problem at all. And as far as whether it's extended to other groups, in certain cases it can be informally