

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, please, on the amendment.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. To refresh your memory, we debated this bill last week. This is the bill that would allow senior citizens over the age of 60 to participate in courses offered at the university, state colleges, technical community colleges on a noncredit, nontuition basis with the instructor's permission. In effect, it would allow them to audit classes without having to pay on the assumption that they would be able to contribute with their skills and their knowledge and be a positive influence on the class, only if space is available in that class for them to audit such a class. When we had the debate last week, a number of senators expressed objections. We have read the debate, a transcript of the debate last week, and the primary objection was that this was an entitlement being given solely on the basis of age, and that that was not proper because there might be students who could afford to pay for the class, who may be working full-time. I think the example that was used was, what about Senator Hefner, what if he wants to take a class? Should we allow him to take it on a nontuition, noncredit basis when he can afford to pay for it, he would benefit from it, and so on? So you might call this amendment the "keep Senator Hefner out of class" amendment, particularly Senator Landis's class, because the amendment that we have drafted, you can find it on your Journal on page 402, the last page, and I had drafted two sections to the amendment and we have decided to delete the second section because it places too much of a burden on the instructor. But the first section that it requires is to address the problem for someone who has the skills, has the knowledge, but could afford to take the class, would, therefore, have to pay for the class, and so we have limited it to persons who are actually retired, who derive the majority of their income from retirement benefits, and do not hold full-time employment. In that way, Senator Hefner would not be able to take Senator Landis's class because I am assuming he derives a substantial part of his lucrative income from the ongoing businesses that he has. This is for people who have...are either working part-time or who are retired but who want to contribute to the class, who want to improve their skills and knowledge in particular areas like I mentioned last week about the creative writing class that I took where people wanted to write some articles, to write some books and those kind of things. This language is drafted from a Maryland statutes. It is the same type of law that they have in