

existing agreements must be renewed pursuant to sections, and then it gives them, which would include the definitional section. So, if you read the bill without my amendment, it could mean that the oral agreement must be renewed as an oral agreement in accord with the definition in Section 4. So what I want to do is just add this language so that this provision, Section 15 that deals with agreements, will contain the same parallel wording as the words in the definitional section. So I think that for consistency sake we ought to adopt this amendment. When Senator Hall tried to strike the word "oral" from the definition, Senator Ashford opposed it. Senator Hall said that may make good lawyer...well, I won't say what he said because I don't remember exactly, but it may make good lawyer dollars but it doesn't make good legislative sense. That's what I will say. We should have a definition, then it should apply wherever the word being defined appears in the bill. The definition of agreement includes an oral agreement. The only other place in the bill where we talk about agreement requires a written agreement, but it also goes on to say that any agreement in existence at the time of the effective date of this bill must be renewed pursuant to the sections in this bill. So oral can be renewed as an oral agreement, written as written, and if oral agreements are good enough now, and Senator Ashford says they are, they should continue to be good enough. So I'm offering this amendment which will bring consistency, and if Senator Ashford is opposed to it, I would like him to have all the opportunity he needs to do so, so having offered the amendment, I will end my opening and see what he says.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford, about three minutes. Correction, two minutes.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm opposed to the amendment. The reason that we have the words "written" and "oral" in the definition section, as I've said now four or five times, is because we are dealing with all agreements that are now in effect, whether they be written or oral. Senator Chambers makes a point, but the way to handle it is not to amend by inserting the word "oral". The way to amend is in the definition section which I'll be happy to do on Select File by simply saying that except where an agreement is designated as written or oral. I know this sounds confusing, but you do not, we do not want to be in a position, and the bill does not intend for there to continue to be oral agreements provided. In dealing with oral agreements here, we're dealing with it in two ways, one, oral agreements that are