

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, you're next, but may I introduce some guests of Senator Morrissey, please, in the south balcony. We have 25 eighth graders from the Tecumseh area and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Ashford, please, followed by Senator Wesely and Senator Hefner. We're on the committee amendments. Okay, Senator Wesely, on the amendments. Senator Hefner, you're...on the bill. Nobody wants to talk about the amendments. Senator Landis, did you wish to close on the amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS: Having described them, I'll just move for their adoption. We can then discuss the bill as amended as it is intended to do its work.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Chambers, would you like to discuss your bill, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, as Senator Landis exhaustively explained the bill while he was giving the committee amendments, so, and it is venture capital equity and debt financing. That's the concept which I'm sure all of you are familiar with, so I'd like to give a few other types of comments on the bill. This is finally an effort to get at some of the underlying causes of poverty and the problems that are generated through that. Much has been said about fighting the war on drugs. This bill may not seem to fit into that category, but in my mind, this is a much more effective way of trying to approach that problem because it is getting at some of the sociological and economic underpinnings of the overall problem. If we have a bill such as this which will result in the creation of new businesses, the expansion of existing businesses and those businesses in turn offer meaningful employment opportunities to youngsters, and even their parents, some of the businesses will offer a future. Then you can tell some of these young people, go to school, there is a purpose and a value in education and you can see it burgeoning around you.