

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator, why was this not introduced as a bill?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Actually, Senator, it was introduced as a bill on the second to the last day. The reason that I brought it up at this point was not to badger the system at all, in fact, I mentioned to Senator Withem if it comes up to any serious problems I would withdraw it and allow the process to continue. The way I have it pictured at this point, by the time that the bill would get through the Judiciary Committee at the number of the bills that are in the committee at this particular point, there may not be time for it to ever pass because it certainly is not going to be anything of a priority nature.

SENATOR PIRSCH: This was assigned to Judiciary Committee?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: My understanding that it was. I'd have to go back and check.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, although the other was not.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct.

SENATOR PIRSCH: The other bill was not. You know, I really don't know because I haven't heard all of the pros and cons of this bill, but it does make me nervous when we slip it in one of the early days...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Would you please speak into your microphone.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...before it has had the opportunity to have a public hearing.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Pirsch, the only thing I can say to you is that we're really not trying to slip anything past anybody. You know, it is very open. The counties simply may try it if they want, and if they don't want to try it, they don't have to. What they want to do is take just a couple of counties and they want to get the two people together and if they wish to do so to try the experiment to see what the effects are.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Then do you think that would be mandated?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No. It would simply be permissive