

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...should be one amendment, and there should be another one after that that's marked B.

CLERK: Right, right. Okay. (Beutler amendment appears on pages 1445-46 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, these are largely technical and clarifying amendments that I have run by Senator Schellpeper. The first one has to do with the open meetings law and public records law. There were a couple of statements on page 7 of the bill with regard to open meetings and notice of meetings. What I did was simply delete that language, with the understanding that this rural commission is under the open meetings law, and under the public records law. And I'm going to ask Senator Schellpeper that...to confirm that intent. I believe it clearly is under those provisions of law. And so some of the detailed language that was in the bill I deleted, since it would be in conflict with those...with those general provisions. Secondly, on page 12, I just added a criteria to the criteria that are used to determine what is...what is a shortage area. And, basically, the additional criteria would be simply to look at the demographic trends in the area, both past and future, which I think there would be little objection to. The third amendment, or third part of the amendment deals with page 13, and basically it consolidates a couple of provisions and provides that anywhere where a student does not follow through with his obligation that they will all be treated under one section of statutes, which is the section shown as Section B on page 13, rather than having two or three different sections. And then on page 15 there is a small, technical provision withdrawing from the commission the power to cancel indebtedness under extenuating circumstances, and limiting that power to forgive indebtedness to the specific examples set out in the bill, that is disability and death. And the last part of the amendment simply clarifies, on page 4, that the community match programs that are set up are with reference to student loans and loan repayments, which is what the bill is all about, and I just want to be sure that that language was sufficiently limited to those two specific situations. Those are the amendments, Mr. Speaker, I'd move their adoption.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there discussion of the Beutler amendments?