

want to emphasize that this is purely a short-term kind of clearing up of the nepotism laws. I think it brought to...it brought to light the fact that our nepotism laws have not been looked at very closely in this state for a number of years and probably do need a good check. So I do pledge to you that my office, in cooperation with the Policy Research office over the summer, we're going to take a look at the entire system of nepotism laws that we have in this state and try and make it so that it makes sense for all departments. If you notice in the bill, this bill only applies to certain departments in the state. It does not apply to state government totally and the reason is because that's the way our nepotism law is now, it only applies to certain departments in the state, it does not apply to all of them. I think if we're going to have nepotism laws in the state and they are going to be meaningful, we probably need to look at applying them across the board so that the nepotism laws are consistent clear across all of the departments, all of state government. This bill has two main purposes. First of all, it would allow for the situation such as has occurred in the State Patrol. If a person is selected to head a department and there is a family member who has already been employed by that department before the effective date of the appointment of the other member of the family, that person may continue their employment with that department. The other thing it is, it does say it still does prohibit a department head from coming in and hiring someone from their family to work in that department. That's still prohibited by this change. So we're not allowing someone to come in as the head of a department, then hire a family member. We're only allowing it so that if there is a department head that's selected, there is a family member that's part of that department, they can continue service. It also clears up some confusion which the Attorney General also brought out and legitimately so. It says that there is a possibility that maybe if you have a head of one department and there is an employee of another department, the law was not real clear as to whether that person would have to be terminated. So this clears that up too and it says that if you...that you can have a head of a department selected, if there is a member of his family that works for another department, that situation can certainly continue. There is no prohibition to that. I think that the bill is very straightforward. There is not that much to it and it's basically done just to clear up the situation for now so that we don't end up with a court case over the situation that we have. I think that, in my own mind, I think that Ron Tussing is very