

this person needs to be disciplined, their license needs to be taken away, and that can occur even though the person may be in treatment. And so if somebody feels that's the route and if that is an appropriate action, that is still possible under this legislation. You don't preclude that activity from going on, but there is also a feeling, again, there is confidentiality here, that more people will self-report, more people will report others who have a drug and alcohol problem and have that problem taken care of and we won't hide it. It will bring out this thing out of the closet which has been there, the drug and alcohol problems of some of our health professionals. It will allow individuals who are friends, let's say, of a health professional and see a problem, to feel comfortable in contacting the state and saying, this person needs help. They don't seem to see it themselves. We've got to get them into a program. Let's see that something happens, and I feel very good that this will end up serving the state well, and I guess I don't know if I need to go into more detail, but in my estimation, this will have dealt with a very important issue in a very constructive fashion that has stymied the state now for many years, and I'm very pleased that we look like we can move forward with this legislation. And I'll be happy to answer questions before we go to the amendment, if you don't mind.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Are there any questions of Senator Wesely? Any senators wishing to speak on this bill? Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Wesely would move to amend with AM1296. The members will find copies on their desks.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, the subject to the discipline issue of drug and alcohol related problems of health professionals is the broader issue of discipline of health professionals and how we take care of those issues that I think have also come to the forefront in this state, again, coming out of the closet. I'll just reference, for instance, for your information, Dr. Schrein has been the most recent case, but we've had many others come to the public's attention of health professionals that have misbehaved, that have harmed or injured their patients and we need to have a strong and effective discipline process for our health professionals as possible. We, again, in this area in this