

communication and the committee amendments that were adopted were not agreed to by the optometrists, but were agreed to by the ophthalmologists as something they were willing to, I believe, would be fair to say they'd be willing to live with. But as I said, the optometrists were not and so we continued to struggle through the issue of how to resolve the differences. And I spent some time reviewing the committee amendments which I feel were constructive in tightening up the broadening of the authority for optometrists, but the one particular item that, in my estimation, remained was a question of oversight of this activity. Under the committee amendment, the Board of Medical Examiners of Medicine and Surgery end up overseeing this relationship and the problem with that is that optometrists are independent practitioners with their own independent board and they legitimately said, look, this isn't really appropriate. We do our practice, we regulate our own practice, we always have, and we feel that it is improper for us to be subject to the Board of Medicine in this particular area. And so I listened to that and I thought it was probably...I thought it was correct, and so I talked to Senator Moore about this and agreed that we needed to come back and what this amendment does is realign the situation of oversight of this situation back to where it was to begin with and that is optometrists will oversee...the Optometric Board will oversee the optometrists involved in this activity and the Board of Medicine and Surgery will oversee the ophthalmologists involved in this activity. They are appropriate boards overseeing the appropriate professions. That's really a large part of the amendment. What we do though by the amendment is keep the higher level of oversight by the ophthalmologists over the optometrists. The trade-off is this. The ophthalmologists give up through this amendment their board overseeing this activity, but what they retain is, in the committee amendment, the supervision rights of the ophthalmologists over the optometrists. The optometrist is not able to be more free to move in this area with merely consulting and collaborating with an ophthalmologist but must be supervised by an ophthalmologist, a much higher level of oversight by the ophthalmologist. This does not please the optometrists. They are not happy with the prospect of being supervised by ophthalmologists, but I don't know if they have agreed completely or not to this amendment, but they seemed to be willing to accept to some degree the supervision if they can have their own board involved in the oversight of their own profession. Otherwise, the changes are technical in nature. There is, and this is kind of funny, there is one term in the