

has become the bill. The subtleties are, for the most part, the commission is an advisory group. They will advise the director. But it is the director who is going to come up with the state plan. And then as Senator Rasmussen and I were conversing before, when that state plan comes out, it will be up to senators...a senator, and I assume it would be myself or any other person in the body would look at the plan and say, yes, this is what we can afford to do, this is what we can do, and this is what we're going to do. And I think there will be enough momentum that that which comes out will be done. And I agree with Senator Withem that it's long overdue. They, apparently, are not ready to separate things out of turfs and put it into an independent agency, but we are taking this step, it is a positive step, and I have high hopes. But, again, we all have high hopes when we get into the process. And I will admit to Senator Withem and others that it's been frustrating for me to get in on this issue. It's been very frustrating about the intransigence, about the slow, lethargic moving...movement of the agencies, and I...I don't have...I can't give any odds of success, but I can guarantee this Legislature that the people on that commission are going to be pushing hard. The director is going to be pushing hard, whoever that person is going to be, with a lot of...lot of help and input. And with people within the body providing information, we can say to the groups that we are having change. And I want to emphasize one other thing, this is not going to be a commission where the departments can send an...a representative, this is one where we're having the people that make decisions sit down and say, here's where we are, here's what it looks like when we look in a mirror, do we like what we see in that mirror, and if not, it's up to us now to make the changes that we can afford to do and that we need to do. And I have high hopes. I don't have any guarantees, but it's a step in the right direction. I ask the body to approve the amendment which will become the bill, and then later advance LB 447.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Anyone wishing to discuss the amendment by Senator Bernard-Stevens? Seeing no one, do you wish to close? We will now vote on the amendment by Senator Bernard-Stevens. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the amendment by Senator Bernard-Stevens. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.