

the sentencing judge, we better start or we better check with our judges to see what they're going to think about what that's going to do to their workloads. The way I read this, and I may be reading it wrong, but the way I read it is that good time is going to be authorized by the...at the discretion of the sentencing judge. Whether that can be done at the time of sentencing, I don't know, but I think it's something that, like I say, it's an entirely new concept. Finally, it completely defeats the purpose of good time. Good time is intended to control inmates while they're in jail. It's intended to control and it works. If you talk to your corrections officials and ask them how important is good time to us, or to you, they will tell you. As one corrections official told me, I've had huge convicts break down and cry in my office when I take their good time. It is an enormous, enormous method of controlling inmate...how the inmates act within the jail system. And that...in order to do that, it's structured this way for a purpose. It's because when this originally came, I don't know for sure, but when it originally came I'll bet it came out of corrections and that they said this is the structure we need. I would suggest that we not play with the way that the good time is structured. And, as you heard Senator Witek mention, she is not going to be voting for this bill anyway. It's not...this is not her attempt to improve the bill. This is her attempt to try to defeat the purpose of it. And, if the amendment is adopted, she will have done a pretty good job of defeating the purpose of the bill. I would urge you to take a look at the...at the language and see if that's...and if you want to, look at the other section or the other sections in Chapter 47 and just see if that's the process you want. And then you might make a phone call back to your county judges and see if that's what they want, if they want to start dealing with good time or if they want to keep it over in the corrections system, and if we start dealing with good time at the judicial level...

SPEAKER WITHEM: About 40 seconds left.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Interesting. I haven't heard that one before. (Laughter.) If you check with them and see if your county judges want to be...want to be dealing with good time and if we're going to be giving them all their constitutional protections at that time, or are they going to bring them back in for another hearing to determine that? That stuff is generally done at the corrections level. I think it's unwise policy and I would be voting against the amendment.