

handed a copy of the amendments to this bill. I can go through them very quickly. Basically the amendment reorders the need and goal of the bill found in Section 2 and 3 for the purpose of making more clear what the partnership is aimed to accomplish and you have all this in front of you so you can read only one minor language change is made in the process of reordering these provisions and the amendment does not alter the intent of the bill in this area. The thing that I want to point out in this amendment changes when you get on number 3 in section...it says Section 5 and it's actually a Section 4 of the amendment and not of the bill so you need to make that change on your copy that is before you. Section 4 of the amendment amends, amendment prohibits the use of partnership grant funds planning or administrative costs associated with planning. And in Section 4 of the amendment, the amendment places a cap of \$25,000 on the size of any one grant. This is proposed so at least 10 grants can be given per year on the proposed appropriation level of \$250,000 annually. And in Section 5 of the amendment, amendment provides that the annual report to the Governor and Legislature shall be issued on January 1 each year so that the most current information about partnerships would be available to the Legislature. That change was made so that there would be a report issued before the Legislature came in session so that they could take a look at actually what was happening and be able to deal with the issue if they wanted to continue the funding in subsequent years. And the last part of the amendment changes the sunset date adopted by the committee from January 1 of 2000 to January 30 of 1999 and this makes the sunset date consistent with the end of the fiscal biennium. The way before it would come up in the middle of the biennium which would certainly leave a half a year that it would be funded and then it would be...and then the bill would sunset. So what we've done is backed it up actually six months so that the sunset would require on June 30, 1999. So that's a very short explanation because these amendments need to be dealt with. I'll turn it back to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I appreciate Senator Vrtiska and his staff members of Maxine Maul and members of the DED and others that have been working together to try to get this bill into as best shape as possible. I had reservations on the bill and still sometimes do, but with these changes it makes it a lot more palatable. I