

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I think I have to take just a moment to explain the bill and then the committee amendment will be real easy for you to understand. And the bill itself is, in all probability, inconsequential in the sense that the bill seeks to extend in existence a local state entity that must exist according to federal law in order for the state to benefit from possible federal funds. These are federal funds that are, hopefully, to be available for the construction and development of recreational trails under what is called the Symms Act. However, after the first year, we got about 100,000 the first year, and after the first year the federal government failed to fund the Symms Act and, in all probability, they will continue to fail to fund it. However, should they fund it, it's necessary to have a state structure in place in order to benefit from those funds and then to meet other conditions which we could conceivably meet, but we need to keep this structure going for an additional period of time to see if those federal funds materialize. Under the original green copy of the bill, I had simply proposed that the local structure be extended for another couple of years. In committee, I think what Senator Avery perhaps or other committee members said, well, why do we need to bother with this every year, let's just keep it in existence and when it's finally determined and the federal act is put out of its misery, if that's what is done, then we'll repeal the statute and so what the committee amendment does is simply keep this local advisory committee in existence indefinitely instead of for a two-year period.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any discussion on the committee amendments to LB 296? Seeing none, Senator Beutler. He waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 296. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Beutler, on the bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The bill is as explained, Senator Crosby. I'd invite questions and otherwise simply move for the advancement of the bill.