

amendment, and I understand where Senator Chambers is coming from. The two things that I still have a difficulty with, one is more of a broad-based philosophical argument rather than just on this particular bill, is I don't think we need to get into the policy of making it easier to remove people from an appointed or elected position. I don't think that is good policy. What Senator Maurstad is doing is say, look, that is the way we have it on all the other areas; we should be consistent and move the other one back down. I guess my feeling is, no, keep this one the way it is, and I will probably have a bill next year to move the other ones back up, which will probably die in committee as it is introduced. But, nonetheless, we shouldn't make it easier for people to be removed, and I am concerned still about the concept of alternates, that an alternate can be appointed and vote for any member that could be absent at any time, and that would be not only on the planning commission, but on...whether it be city council, or any other elected organization that has that type of voting process because a lot of games can be played. And I don't think, you know, if people elect people, if the elected officials are not having, not being there to have a quorum, I think that is a problem in the democratic process and the people, but I don't think we should make the process easier just because we have people that don't wish to serve their obligation. With that, I'd support the amendment. I probably again will not support the advancement of the bill, but I believe the bill will advance, and I will be working with Senator Maurstad between now and Select, if there is anything else we can do. I appreciate the openness and the forthrightness that Senator Maurstad has taken on this particular bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER PRESIDING

SENATOR BEUTLER: There are no additional lights, Senator Maurstad. Would you care to close on your amendment? Closing has been waived. The question is the adoption of the Maurstad amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Maurstad's amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Are there any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?