

Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment fully accomplishes that objective so that in the event his amendment is adopted I will be pleased to carry the bill. I'll be satisfied and I think it will meet the objectives of the Economic Development Department. There is a narrowing here and upon reflection I think I'm all right with the existing language so I'm going to vote no on the Bernard-Stevens amendment, but whatever happens I'm going to readvance and support the bill. The new language says that for an employed child performer in the performing arts including, and the word is including so it's not necessarily exhausting the performing arts. Performing arts means musical and theatrical presentations and productions including motion pictures, theater, radio and television productions. My experience is that young people who are involved in paid, professional, theatrical productions are either very good students already and this is hardly a problem for them, in fact, is a rich learning environment or on occasion, at risk students who find that the performing arts are a very exciting thing to do and actually has a tendency to bring them back into more serious contemplation and more serious attitudes in school. So that even though this language is beyond the television and the movie production and is into theatrical, musical presentations for money, it seems to me that it will have a sufficient educational purpose and it in fact can have, in some cases for an at risk student, a very positive effect in their socialization. Understand that the parent always has to agree. There has to be a written approval by the parent before this can happen and, secondly, the Department of Labor also has to have this situation fall within their rules and regs because they are to have the power to grant a special permit. This won't occur all the time, it will occur only when a parent or a child goes down and gets a special permit. I'm going to guess that for the kind of student that is going to go down and get that permit, even for a nonmovie production, it's going to be a good education, they're going to be serious students or they're going to be an at risk student who is probably going to have a very positive experience out of the performing arts and that's a good thing. If the amendment is successful, I'll be entirely satisfied. On the other hand I think the language of the bill is also justifiable. I intend to vote no on the amendment, but without regard to the outcome, support the readvancement of the bill today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Is there any further discussion on the Bernard-Stevens amendment? Seeing none, Senator Bernard-Stevens, to close.