

before, we've complied and it hasn't done us a great deal of harm, nor necessarily a great deal of good, but it has, in many cases, saved us money. Most oftentimes we seem to be doing it in the roads area, but this is arguably a new area, and I think we can comply without doing us a great deal of harm. And in fact, it looks to me like the case-by-case exception that can be made by administrators might actually be more flexible than our own law. And that flexibility may make sense as the rules would be administered by local school districts. I'm perfectly willing to vote for the amendment and I hope that eventually we'll get to do that.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Bromm, do you care to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, thank you, Senator Hall and colleagues. I'm going to probably defer part of my time to Senator Bohlke and I may follow her lead on what she wants to do on the bracket motion, if she prefers to work on it and come back tomorrow on it, I'm willing to do that. But I just...I find it somewhat incredible that this is the major problem that it seems to be. I agree with Senator Wickersham, there is flexibility that can be built into this by giving the superintendent the power, or even in Senator Chambers' interpretation requiring the school to allow the superintendent to modify the expulsion. I can't take...in good conscience as a state senator, there's \$1.3 million at risk in my district. If those who pooh-pooh the possibility of losing that are wrong, I can't go home and face those people that I represent and say, well, I didn't want to clear this up because this law would have allowed someone who brought a gun to school to be suspended for maybe two weeks, plus two semesters, whereas, if it would have been the beginning of the following semester he would only have been suspended for maybe the balance of that semester and one additional semester. And those people would say, you have been in the State Capitol too long. They would say, where is your brain? That just does not make sense. We just need to take care of this, folks. Now we can get to business here and we can work the words out and Senator Chambers has some suggestions that I think will clarify the law somewhat, but we just need to take care of the business. And if the law is changed, we can come back and change this, but don't risk \$36 million, your constituents will not understand that, they will not understand that, and I wouldn't blame them for not understanding it. We are getting caught up in a political frenzy here that...absolutely ignoring the forest for