

the ability to appoint the director, who would then serve at the pleasure of the Governor. As you know, the Governor right now appoints the commission members. Included also in the bill, as it came out of committee, are standards or at least areas from which the commission members would have some expertise who would be appointed. There was also a provision in the original 886 that said commission members could not also be state employees. As you know, or many of you know, we have at least one member of the commission who happens to be a state employee. That was stripped from the bill in committee before it came out as well. The tier 1/tier 2 system that's put into place allows for the expediting of claims, that serves to not only benefit the agency but it very much benefits the complainant and the ability to work through these claims to see whether or not there is a reasonable cause for purposes of complaint...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...or not I think is something that just in terms of the mechanics of how the commission will operate, how the agency will function, will better serve everyone. And I rise, again, in support of the committee amendments and would urge their adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Discussion on the committee amendments. Your light was next, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: I waive.

SENATOR CROSBY: Discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, if I may, or Senator Warner, just an orientation to go through here. Wanted to see if I understood a couple of things. First of all, on page 14, and maybe, Senator Warner, I should address it to you since this is the committee amendment. The new language has reference to discrimination, age discrimination, or some other type elsewhere defined in the statutes. I didn't refer back to that but I was interested, it said employer shall mean a person engaged in an industry who has 25 or more employees. What...what does industry mean in that context? Is that...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Warner.