

bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments with AM2429. (Amendment on file in the Clerk's office.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, the amendment is very lengthy. I had it drafted, last night it was completed. I did not copy it and handed it out because of its length. However, more than anything else it inserts the terms "sexual orientation" in a number of places and that's why basically it is so thick. But it is the text of LB 21, if you want to look in your bill book and see what it is that I'm attempting to do here. The bill, itself, did not emerge from committee. I made an effort to raise the bill on the floor and many of the senators did not even come to the floor to discuss it because the issue was deemed to be so volatile. I had used the fact that the senators were even afraid to discuss the issue to show that there is an attitude out there against people based on their sexual orientation which leads to discrimination and unfair treatment. When the issue is such that senators are even afraid to discuss it, you can extrapolate from those attitudes out to the general world of work to see that people are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, that is wrong, in my opinion, and the law should prohibit it. So what LB 21 does, if you want to look at it, is to give a definition, on page 19 of sexual orientation. And, for the record, I want to read that definition. Sexual orientation shall mean having an orientation for heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality, having a history of such an orientation or being identified with such an orientation. Sexual orientation shall not include transvestism, transexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments or any other sexual behavior disorders. What that definition is designed to do is to make it clear that nothing which is illegal is made legal by this provision. Because of the fact that a person does not have to have one of these particular orientations but can be associated with it and thereby face discrimination, it is essential that we protect people from that type of unfair treatment. On page 33 of LB 21 are some exemptions and they relate to religious organizations and