

SENATOR ABOUD: I have been talking to them, and they are not certain that at this time they are willing to agree to any changes because they are not sure what language you are considering, and so...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...but we can talk about that when we get to the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and that's all that I wanted to establish at this point, that we will be in a position to discuss it. Members of the Legislature, the issues that Senator Beutler had raised, and I am sure that there are other questions that he has because I've talked to him about some of the things in this bill are the types of matters that we need to look at. I am not in favor of having different tiers established during different legislative sessions that established the level at which people will earn good time. Right now, there are some inmates who have been in the prison system long enough to have seen the Legislature make several changes. What can happen and has happened in the past is that a person will have been sentenced some time ago, the granting of good time will have been liberalized by the Legislature during that person's term, but because only the Pardons Board can reduce a sentence, any subsequent enactment by the Legislature which accorded increased good time would not benefit the person sentenced prior to that law. To grant additional good time to a person who has been sentenced prior to the passage of the law would be the Legislature, in effect, doing the work of the Pardons Board by reducing that individual's sentence. The fact that we have changed so many times the manner in which good time is to be granted and computed should be the thing that would cause us to go slowly in changing again the manner in which we grant good time. I carried a bill two or three years ago for the administration which would allow six months good time credited for every year of a person's sentence. If we bring about a change now, then whoever is sentenced after the enactment of this law would be given good time on a basis different from that anybody else is under who was sentenced prior to the passage of this law. It creates, not only a nightmare situation for inmates who don't get the benefits of changes that mitigate a sentence, but for those who have to keep track of the good time, tabulate it, and also for those who have to maintain order in the prison. While we are over here in the Legislature...