

came up and there was an attempt to suspend the rules to do the gun-free school measure there was a lot of opposition to the suspension of the rules. Today it came up and it passed with no opposition, I think one individual speaking on it, is all. The more perceptive of you may have concluded something has happened to change this. Well, it has, it has. We are in a better mood today, and, not really, you know after last night probably not, Senator Bohlke. That's not the change at all. What's happened is we've said, and I think we all understand each other's position better, and there is general agreement that if we are going to do...general agreement among the people who sat down to discuss it. That does not, obviously, apply to Senator Wickersham or to maybe other members of the body, but there is general agreement that the...if we are going to pass a bill, which I still doubt whether we need to, but if the majority of the body thinks we need to pass a bill that may have the impact of expelling more kids from school, or expelling kids for a longer time period, then we ought to close that loop at this time as to what's going to happen with kids that are expelled from school. And so there is a general agreement among the people who had some concerns about doing the bill at all, and those that very strenuously expect to see this bill pass, that if it is going to happen, it needs to have a component related to alternative education. Senator Wickersham talked a lot about technical defects in this. There may or may not be any. In order to not prolong that battle, I've proposed a couple of amendments. I am sure that Senator Wickersham or any other member of the body could probably pick through any language in here and make objections based on interpretation of one word here or another word someplace else. Technical problems really aren't the issue. The issue is if we are going to pass legislation, if we are going to toe the mark, if we are going to do what the federal government forces us to do, and I don't necessarily agree that we are forced to do it in this session, but if we are going to do that, then let's at least close the loop and let's make sure the kids that are being expelled from schools do have some sort of an alternative education environment available to them. So I would object to the amendment and would also indicate to you, as gently as possible, just factually, not a threatening sort of situation at all, but just as factually as possible, that the inclusion of this provision in the overall amendment is what makes it possible for some of us that don't like the federal mandate to swallow it. If that provision is gone, then the opposition returns to doing anything at all on the issue of gun-free schools. So I would