

SENATOR HALL: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment is adopted. The call is raised. We're back to the Warner amendment. Anything further on the bill? Another amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend. (FA317 appears on page 2586 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, what I wanted to propose was another criteria under Section 7, on page 3 of the bill. These are the criteria that indicate that the DAS may approve a contract if certain conditions are met. One is that the potential economic advantages is not outweighed by the public's interest and then that the contract does not adversely affect the state's affirmative action efforts, and, three, that the contract shall include adequate control mechanisms, etcetera. And I wanted to add a fourth line which basically said the private entity is fairly compensating its employees. And I'm caught a little off guard here. I don't know if this language is as sophisticated as it needs to be, but I think one factor that I very much want them to consider in considering privatization is how the employees of the private entity are being compensated. I don't think that we ought to encourage or set up a situation where someone who is paying dirt cheap wages and no health benefits is allowed to come in and...and undermine the wage systems that are in effect for public employees which, under current studies or studies that we do periodically, are perceived...are dictated to be competitive with private industry and I think that ought to be looked at, at any time privatization is considered. I think that that also plays into the quality of services that are likely to be received and that ought to be considered as it's related to that factor also. It's not a very, again, it's not a very sophisticated statement but, basically, it will serve to have them look at that area and I'm content to let DAS develop some standards in that area and if we don't like those standards, to come back and put in more specific language. Thank you.