

County is very concerned about the number of cases that will develop because of the good time section of this amendment...of this bill. And just changing the operative date, the public defender feels they do have the staff now to cope with any big increase in lawsuits that might develop. But changing the operative date doesn't correct that. All it does, it does extend the time before it will become effective but after that the concern is still there. The other thing I want explained eventually is the part about the drug-free zones. Possession or distribution within 1,000 feet of an educational facility or playground or within 100 feet of a youth center, swimming pool or video arcade facility would be punishable by the next highest offense category. Senator Beutler, could you explain that to me, the drug-free zone? The next highest offense category, for me, that's vague.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CROSBY: It's vague. I...what is the next highest defense category? I'm reading from the summary. I'm reading from the summary.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I'm sorry, I wasn't listening.

SENATOR CROSBY: The drug-free zone, I do not understand when it says it would be punishable by the next highest offense category.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR CROSBY: For me, I just, as I say, that sounds vague.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it turns out to be very specific in the sense that whatever the offense may be, and it could be possession in that area or it could be distribution in that area, it depends on what drug is involved, but whatever the circumstances is they will be charged with the specific crime and that crime will have a specific penalty, Class III felony, for example, would be the normal penalty for that kind of crime. But if it's within the drug-free zone then the penalty will not be the normal penalty of the Class III felony but it will be a penalty that's the next highest offense which would be a Class II felony, and, of course, that would have a higher range of possible years of...