

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe, as Senator Chambers indicated, this amendment would add sexual orientation to a classification for discriminatory employment practice. And I believe he indicated, I believe Senator Hall had a bill, which I think was LB 400. I think Senator Chambers had a bill last session, LB 21. I believe they were both indefinitely postponed. And I believe Senator Chambers introduced a bill this year, yesterday, I believe, LB 902, that addresses the same issue. So in some respects the issue, besides the substantive issue, would be whether you thought it should have another hearing or not or in the...reflected the provisions of LB 902, or have some consideration that the committee had indefinitely postponed the other bills last session. I don't know if I should quite say this, but there is one thing that you probably want to keep in mind, what is proposed in this amendment is a mere reflection of what is already legislative hiring policy. We don't permit that kind of discrimination under our legislative rules, and that was adopted during the...what, '91-92, 1991-92, so nobody gets confused I'm talking 1891. (Laughter.) And so in some respects what Senator Chambers is proposing then is solely one of whether we ought to...it's appropriate to extend this to population generally across the state, which merely reflects something that is already internal legislative employment policy. I probably will not vote to add this amendment, but it's going to be on the basis because there is separate legislation that deals with it, but it is an appropriate subject to the bill. I mean it certainly is germane. But you'll need to decide whether you want to handle it as a separate measure or add it here. Obviously it would add another level of controversy, and I understand the bill is not without controversy as it is in some respects. But I probably will be voting no, but it's going to be on the basis of that perhaps it ought to be handled as a separate, independent piece of legislation, and that opportunity will be before us.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Chambers, for discussion on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and I appreciate what Senator Warner pointed out, but what he mentioned about our legislative policy was one of the items I was going to go into as I went deeper into the