

commission shall not be state employees except for the Commissioner of Labor." We don't need to put the exception language in there, so what this amendment, my amendment that I am substituting, simply states members of the commission shall not be state employees, period. So that's the substitution, and I didn't feel the need to go ahead and change...and have that changed and new amendments out on the floor because all we are doing is striking the exception language. What this amendment would do would amend page 29 of the committee amendment. After line 8, it would insert, "Members of the commission shall not be state employees." In the committee amendment, it allows members of the commission, it eliminates a provision of the bill which would prohibit state employees from serving on the commission. In the original bill, as drafted, they prohibited state employees from serving on the commission. In the committee amendment, as drafted, they would eliminate that provision and they would allow state employees to serve on the commission. My reason for doing so with understanding now that the Governor will be able to appoint an entire new commission and the Governor makes these appointments, every single one of these appointments could be state employees, and understanding that every single one of the commissioners could be state employees would make it, some say that they would remain autonomous despite. As this bill is drafted, I would disagree. If you have all state employees on the commission, I am sure they would feel compelled to be...and appointed by the Governor, they would feel at least somewhat obligated, maybe not through statute, but personally obligated to at least listen to more so the Governor, and I thought if we could keep the original language of prohibiting state employees from the commission, allow the Governor to make these appointments from outside the state employee pool, there is more of an opportunity there to keep the commission autonomous, out away from the political arena, instead of, as I said, drawing it back into the political arena, which I think that this provision in the bill does so. So my amendment would simply prohibit state employees from being appointed to the Equal Opportunity Commission, as it does in the original bill, and I hope you can see the wisdom in preventing that, the opportunity for the Governor to appoint state employees, and go along with the original intent of the bill, which was to prohibit state employees, and that's what my amendment would do would be prohibit employees from being appointed to the commission and keep it further away from the politics of the situation and from the direct line of chain of