

command, whatever you want to call it, up to the Governor and the effect, his effect or her effect, remember, it is all future governors, not just the one we have now, his or her effect on this commission by the possibility of appointing all state employees to the commission. So I hope you will see that I think it is a wise thing to do to keep the commission away from politics by not allowing state employees on the commission, and I would ask for your adoption of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Warner, followed by Senators Chambers and Crosby.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose the amendment. All morning I repeatedly heard what good work the commission has been doing, we should make no change. I would call your attention that two members of the commission as it currently exists are state employees, so it must not be all bad if they have been doing so well, that we should prohibit them. There is language in the amendment...by the way, it is correct that LB 886, as originally drafted, the Governor's bill prohibited public employees, but LB 450, which was the committee bill, the Performance Evaluation Committee's bill, did not have such prohibition. And so what was done by the committee in 886 was consistent with what we did way back in November of 1994. There are seven members of the commission. This is the criteria that must be represented on that commission, one of which would have a background with experience in the housing industry, one is an employer, one in personnel management or employment, another from labor organization, one would be a licensed attorney, one would have experience in civil rights groups, and one would be an at-large citizenry, and the reason for those various categories, of course, was to try to ensure that there was representation by various areas, at least there was a mix as to members of the commission with a variety of backgrounds at least that maybe dealing with the...that normally would deal with the kinds of issues that might come before the commission. But I see no logic to restrict state employees entirely, since two of them currently, two of the members currently are, and to my knowledge have been doing a fine job as a commission member. So I would oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Crosby.