

but to keep the further politicalization of this commission, which is already occurring. I mean they have been playing politics with this thing for, I think, the three years that I have been here. But if you can appoint, if this Governor gets to appoint, within 45 days after the passage of this bill, an entire new EEOC commission, and there are no guidelines for where he can get those individuals from other than the criteria that, as Senator Chambers pointed out, it's permissive, it's not mandatory. There is no mandatory language in this bill. He doesn't have to do anything than he wants to do, and you are talking about legislative oversight. In a busy year, there, quite frankly, isn't that close of scrutiny to the appointments made, although I have faith that Senator Chambers, at least, will pay very close attention to these new appointments that will be made this year, but we won't be here. They will be able to serve, if he doesn't appoint until after we're here, then they will be able to serve for an entire year nearly until we come back unless, I don't know, maybe I don't know the procedure. Maybe the Exec Board gets to do that, but the members of the commission now will, at least some of them will not be reappointed, I would imagine, because of the controversies that have ensued, and you are giving him a blanket opportunity here to put together an entire EEOC commission serving at his approval and appointment, which I know he has now due to the five years in office, or I believe he has now due to his five years in office, but I still object to the opportunity to appoint an entire new commission, to possibly appoint an entire commission or majority, voting majority thereof, of state employees, who will still be under... I mean their paycheck comes from the executive branch of government. So if you believe, as I do, that the EEOC needs to be autonomous outside of the politics, to be able to operate efficiently and effectively, then you will vote for this amendment to keep state employees off of the commission. I'd ask for you to vote for this amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. The question before the body is the adoption of the Witek amendment to the committee amendments to LB 886. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 1 aye, 15 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the amendment.