

appointed by the Governor with the consent of the majority of the Legislature. If we cannot even agree while we're discussing the law what these words mean, what is going to happen when an individual's name is submitted to us and we have these criteria to use as a standard by which to judge whether or not such a person should be confirmed or consented to by the Legislature. There is no need for these words. When we vote on a confirmation, we each will have our reasons, and, in some cases, no reason for voting to confirm, voting against confirmation, which rarely happens, or not voting at all. This bill is bad enough as it is. I would hate to have words put in that are designed, in my opinion, to give the impression that something is being done, which, in fact, is not. The word "diversity" in some people's mind constitutes a red flag of warning that it includes black people, feminists, homosexuals, communists, socialists, Latinos, Jews, Muslims, and every group against which they may have some grudge. So rather than inject that type of consideration into the discussion from the very beginning of this bill, I think we ought to strike it. I don't know if any word in this catalog which will ensure that we have somebody who is qualified and competent to do the work that is to be done. All of us have been in this Legislature long enough to review various appointments that have been made. Generally, they are political in nature, and that doesn't mean that they are of earthshaking consequence, that these appointments are always a matter of life or death in a political sense to the one making the appointment or the one receiving it. There are big shots; there are little shots. There are people in high places from whom selections are made; there are people in low places from whom selections are made. But my view is that as much should be taken from this bill that is extraneous and superfluous as is possible. While talking about merging these agencies to streamline and make government lean, we ought to do some of that with the bill, itself, which is designed to accomplish that purpose. There is, in my opinion, no justification for this catalog. I think it was thrown in gratuitously and now that we are seriously evaluating and analyzing this bill, these words ought to be excluded. So to state again in a nutshell what this amendment does, on page 9 of the green copy, it would strike lines 22 through 24 from Section 12. If you have any questions, I will answer them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesley.