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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is really a bad day for me. This is strike two. Strike one was when I wound up having to speak for a bill that enhanced penalties, even though I didn't vote for it, and here I am creating a new crime. But I think this is necessary. The purpose of this bill is to create the offense of sexual abuse of an inmate or a parolee. Because of their vulnerable position, due to their status of being in state custody, they are not in a position to protect themselves from those who would use the position and power they hold over such individuals to resist the advances of these individuals. It breaks this offense into two degrees. First of all, first degree sexual abuse of an inmate or a parolee would be a Class III felony, and that is defined, the sexual penetration, in Section 28-318. We don't want to introduce new definitions into the statute. A Class...a second degree offense would be sexual contact, which is also defined in the section that I had mentioned earlier. I was asked by the Director of Corrections to bring this bill to you. It has received support, in written and other forms, from various representatives of women's groups, but it doesn't just apply to female inmates and parolees, it applies to anybody in that position. I think the bill is so straightforward and simple in what it does that I'm not going to take more time explaining it. But, if you have any questions, I am prepared to answer them.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Brashear for the committee amendments, to open on the committee amendments. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0132, on page 408 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, the committee amendment was brought to us by the administration of our Corrections Department in which it specifically...and you have it as AM0132, specifically making Senator Chambers' bill applicable to the administration itself. It inserts, under the definition of "administration", "which includes but is not limited to individuals working in central administration of the department, individuals working under contract with the department, and any individual to whom the department has authorized or delegated control over inmates or inmates' activities". This is a further improvement in an otherwise good