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FLOOR DEBATE

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get it out here. They gave him the vote. I didn't, because I know how they operate. It winds up being prioritized, and here it is before us. What this bill purports to do is give cops rights and privileges that no other category of employees has or enjoys in this state. Right now, any administrative proceeding against a police officer or any other employee must comport with the process known as due process. The person must be given notice, a clear statement of what the charges or accusations are, the opportunity to prepare a defense, to have representation, to call witnesses, and do all of the things that court decisions have said constitute due process in such a hearing. They already have that. You don't see a bill like this putting the rights of teachers into statute, firefighters in the statute. There is nothing like this for parole officers. Couldn't they be falsely accused by a disgruntled inmate, or his or her family? There is nothing in here for probation officers. Not that I would support any of them. But I'm going to fight tooth and nail against giving these cops this special consideration. There are some sheriff's departments where there's a sheriff and a deputy. What about that? There are some police departments with a chief and a cop. Some are one-person operations. So that means the employer would be the city, and the city would have to go through all of these steps before anything could be done. This is cluttering the statute. It's trying to give cops that...something that they and nobody else would be entitled to. I began talking so that an effort could be made to figure a logical way to divide this amendment. But now that Senator Synowiecki is back, I'd like to ask him a question or two. Senator Synowiecki,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I'd like to ask you a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...would you respond?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does the State Patrol stop people, arrest them, and testify against them in court?