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FLOOR DEBATE

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agreement. The thing I wanted to emphasize when I was asking Senator Synowiecki the first question, the language in this amendment does not say that there is a bargaining agreement in place. It is much broader than that. It says, on page 1, in lines 19 through 22, "The act does not apply to a police or sheriff's department that has adopted any procedure that, at a minimum, provides the peace officer the same rights and protections as provided under the act with regard to such procedure." So this means, if there's a collective bargaining agreement and it does not contain everything that's in this bill, this bill supplants that collective bargaining agreement. That's what you all want to do? The city may negotiate in good faith. It may be bludgeoned into accepting certain provisions it does not want to, because cops, in their sneaky way, have a way of going out to the public and saying, we can't protect you, we can't enforce the law. And cities will fold. And they don't have to worry now about negotiating in good faith, the cops don't, because you will have given them in statute more than they could ever win through collective bargaining. And you're giving them a status that nobody else in this society occupies, nobody. I'll say it again: not the Governor, not the Attorney General, not the Secretary of State, not the Treasurer. Well, maybe the Treasurer shouldn't have...but we let bygones be bygones. That Byrd has flown the coop without being put in a cage. It doesn't apply...the Auditor doesn't have any special protection, nobody. And these cops are not going to get away with it. And when I tell you all how underhanded they are, Senator Mossey, you always want to say that's not true. You're a part of this. Your name is on this. You're an ex-cop. You know how they operate. You know how they're allowed under the law to trick people and lie to them to get them to make admissions. The courts allow cops to trick and lie to people to get admissions from them, maybe admitting to things they didn't even do. So they're accustomed to dealing fast and loose with the truth. They're accustomed to bullying people, to intimidating people, to threatening people. But I am not intimidated, I am not bullied. Although I have been threatened, I will not back up one iota. They are wrong. And when they have done something wrong, or have been close enough to something that was wrong to be investigated, or there should be an inquiry, let them assume the responsibility they ought to.