

Lindsay, Chambers and Wesely. (FA610 appears on page 1809 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay, Chambers and Wesely to simultaneous open on their amendment. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to do this...if it's all right with you, I'll do it without going into a chant. This amendment I think is one that addressed Senator Chambers' concerns. I think it's one that addresses some of the concerns people had about the nature and intent of the acquisition. I would also add that it, I think, makes the underlying amendment one that also has quality and merit. What it does is if you're looking at the bill book...or, excuse me, at your amendment in the Journal...it's page 1592 of the Journal. It would, in line 11, strike the language beginning with short-term. So we're striking the language "short-term and long-term housing and treatment of convicted felons sentenced to the Department of Correctional Services", and inserting "mental health or substance abuse treatment". And that, I think, elicits the intent or it leaves open the possibility of the services that Senator Chambers referred to. It leaves open the possibility of the chemical dependency treatment services that were referred to. The bottom line is that it does, hopefully, leaves the administration out there with a lot of options that they can explore, but still trying to bring it down to something that the facility at least was initially designed for. So with that, if Senator Chambers or Senator Wesely would like part of my opening, I'd be happy to yield it to you, Senator Chambers, if you...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Lindsay did explain what the amendment does and how it is kind of a mid-ground between what his original amendment offered, and what I would like to have seen accepted as language. This shows that we're not in the mind-set of a penal facility. It shows that we recognize that mental health and substance abuse are areas where the state needs to do more than is being done. So when whatever is to be looked at with reference to this facility, if the language we put into the law means anything, it will help give some guidance and direction, so I hope that this amendment will be adopted. And whatever time I have left, I will turn over to Senator Wesely.