

of the term drug. So, basically, what I am doing is narrowing the definition, and by narrowing the definition hopefully making it a little more specific. I would ask the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President, members, this is a bill from the Public Health and Welfare Committee. We did introduce it on behalf of the Department of Public Institutions. We have worked with Senator Beutler and the department on the language proposed in this amendment. It would narrow the definition, and I think satisfy the concerns expressed on General File. We would support the amendment and ask your vote for the amendment at this time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Beutler's amendment is moving in the right direction. But whenever you talk about drug abuse the tendency is to think about people who are obtaining controlled substances illegally. There are people addicted to controlled substances and they obtain those controlled substances pursuant to a doctor's prescription or from a friendly pharmacist. Their type of addiction sometimes is kept from the public and they never pass through the criminal justice system. But there could be a situation where an individual is addicted to controlled substances even though they are legally obtained, and those considerations that I've alluded to trouble me about a bill of this kind. I'm going to support Senator Beutler's amendment because it does take some of the mud off the shoes, but there still is a lot remaining. I'm going to address the bill itself, my general objections to it, with the full realization that this bill is going to be passed. I don't think there is enough interest in the Legislature as a whole to try to do anything about this matter. If anything, this bill should be the basis for our considering involuntary commitment procedures that already exist. But to broaden them in the way that this bill is designed to do, and to define a person who is a drug abuser as a mentally ill, dangerous person, I think is totally wrong. It is overkill. Despite the fact that we may not like to see drugs abused, we may not like people who abuse drugs, to define them as mentally ill and dangerous, I think, is not