

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate is ceased. Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your amendment.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, the points made by Senator Chambers about the fact that this is an elected position and there hadn't ought to be any qualifications and we hadn't ought to settle the differences of people in the Rotunda, I think there are some differences when you look at this position. And I am not attempting this amendment in order to settle any squabbles in the Rotunda. I am attempting this amendment in order to try to put in some logical mechanisms for an individual position that happens to be elective in this state, is not in some other states, but happens to be elective in this state that makes some sense. We have some positions in this state that are appointive positions that in some states would be elected. For example, our Commissioner of Education is an appointed position. In a lot of states that would be an elected position. Now should we have a Commissioner of Education or a State School Superintendent, as in some states they are called, without any background in education at all? Would that make sense? I don't happen to have any background in education. I don't happen to have any formal education and yet I am the Chairman of the Education Committee, but I am in a policy making body. We make policy. We don't administer it. It wouldn't make any sense at all for me to be the Commissioner of Education because I would then be in an administrative position administering things, as Senator Beutler put it, a technician. I think we need to distinguish those differences. I think we need to recognize that we are dealing with an elected office that does not make policy decisions, is not a philosophical office but instead is in a position of administering and being technical in an area that many people, including myself, would know nothing about. I think there are some correlations to putting in some...establishing some provisions as far as qualifications are concerned even for an elective office. Senator Chambers' points would be real on target in an ideal world and probably in an ideal world this office wouldn't even be elected. Probably in an ideal world it certainly wouldn't be...it certainly wouldn't be partisan. I have never understood how we got to the place in this state where the policy makers are nonpartisan technically and the technicians are partisan, not only here at the state level