

though, to the discretion of this task force to decide how to design their progress. It is my feeling that where we are right now, in terms of studying Initiative 300, we need a lot of technical expertise, we need a lot of legal expertise. It is very important that we sit down and analyze all of these various questions that have been raised by both sides about what Initiative 300 does and does not do. It has been my experience that it might be premature to take this on the road and do what we typically do in public hearings. So I would suggest that we make it known to...my intent would be for this task force to do a thorough study and to draw on anybody and everybody in the state in terms of coming up with valid information. Once they've done that, then I think that should be presented to the public and allow for public comment and public discussion. But I'm not sure that it is important that we ask people to do a public hearings process between now and March 15th. I'm not sure that can even be done. So I guess I would like to see a document out there, first of all, analyzing the technical and legal questions that have been raised, and that would give all of us, public and senators alike, something concrete that we could respond to. So that is the rationale in asking that we strike that section. The other amendments simply amend the sections to allow for striking Section 4. Then, finally, the wording is changed in the final section, dropping the word "progress." It says that the task force shall report its progress together with any findings or recommendations. I've simply dropped the word "progress" and say, report findings or recommendations. I guess I'm trying to make it clear that this is not going to be a study that we are going to shelve, that we are going to try to go out and find the answers to the questions that have been raised. I have some concerns about the word "progress." I think that it would be perfectly legitimate for the task force to come in and say what they cannot determine and that, of course, is provided for. But I'm not sure that progress indicates that we are truly serious about pursuing this topic. I would hope that if we take the time and ask these people to spend the time on this, that we would indicate that we are serious about looking at those findings and recommendations. So I think this...in my opinion, this is a process type of amendment, it moves the process along in a way that is appropriate for where we are in this stage of examining Initiative 300 right now. I would urge your support for the amendment. Thank you.