

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, the amendment I have now is the one that I mentioned earlier that...it is kind of a compromise. I would tell you that I've got one that I would rather have, but I don't have it completed as of yet and have it up there. This amendment would say that the driver of any motor vehicle, with amber or white lights flashing, would have the same protection that we are applying to the state roads vehicles. Now I spend enough time on the Interstate and other highways of this state to know that it is not just the state roads vehicles that are out there with lights flashing, doing some of the work on the roadways, occasionally it is a contractor's pickup, might be blue and white, might be grey, might be some other color, might not be orange, might not be a state employee in that vehicle. Senator Withem says that lives are valuable. That is true. You don't have to be a state employee to have a valu...to be of value to society it doesn't seem to me. So if you want to follow the assumption that, yes, we are going to create a specific class for specific uses, purposes, then it seems to me that it is only prudent to apply it to a few more people. Now I don't know whether...Senator Withem also indicated that there was nobody opposed...in opposition of this bill. Well that doesn't mean a whole lot. I don't know when the hearing was held on this bill. Maybe there were a lot of people that weren't aware of the changes, maybe they hadn't thought it through, as I don't think the majority of this body is really thinking it through. But it doesn't make a whole lot of difference to me whether nobody came in in opposition at the hearings, Senator Withem. I'm opposed to it, and this is my forum, and I think I have a right to be opposed to it whether anybody opposed it at the hearing or not. So I would urge you to adopt this amendment to at least make one little niche in this concept, and make that niche a little bit larger than it is right now, than it is under the current bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, question for Senator Vickers. Is this amendment on the senators desks?

SENATOR VICKERS: I'm sending...it should be coming around right now. I'm sending a Page around.