

for parole does not mean necessarily that a person will be paroled, it means they can be considered for it. But should a person conduct himself or herself in such a way that parole is warranted, their sentence will be served before they're even eligible for that consideration. I have answered the questions that I thought would be in anybody's mind about this bill the best that I can. If there are other intricacies associated with the way good time is given now, partly because the Legislature from time to time has changed the good time law, this bill cannot function retroactively. It will be from the point onward after it becomes law. The Department of Corrections wanted the bill. I agreed with what they were trying to do. That's why it's before us. The committee heard the testimony; no amendments were offered so I've done the best that I can under the circumstances. And I'm asking that you advance this to E & R.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Does anyone wish to speak to this bill? Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I think there ought to be some things pointed out on this bill. I guess my original feeling on this was that why do we eliminate the good time that is earned, in other words, good time that is earned because you do those extra things in our penitentiary such as the private industry, such as the corrections industries? The fiscal note looks good. We're going to save a million point some dollars. But that's the Department of Corrections that is going to save that money and that, of course, is pie in the sky. We don't know that that will happen truly. But we are going to increase our parole costs, that's due to happen. We also are going to increase our parole hearings, the frequency of those. And those are costs also that we should consider. The trade-off is, of course, that we should make sure that our citizens know that, along with plea bargaining, along with minimums and maximum flexibility, we are also saying that good time is going to be handed out from the very beginning and that a sentence of two years does not really mean that person is going to be in that institution and off our streets for two years. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I have a question for Senator Chambers, please.