

agreement between the parties would be free of any...any problems and that is the amendment. I would just make a couple of points then on this...on the issue as it now exists before you. It is my, and I believe Senator Hall mentioned it on the first day of debate, it is my hope that once this bill, if it is advanced or even if it isn't, but certainly if it is advanced to Select File, that the parties to this action or to this matter, the city and the police union, would sit down and discuss the geographic distribution argument. In talking to police officers in the last couple of weeks since this bill came up, it appears to me that what happens is that, in the City of Omaha, is that, as has been stated several times, officers bid for many things based on seniority and one of the items that is bid upon is geographic area and what happens oftentimes is that a police officer in his probationary...his or her probationary stage can be assigned anywhere that he or she is assigned without...without the bidding process being undertaken and then after that time has elapsed that the...a bidding process, based on seniority, starts and that a police officer may then bid out of a particular area that he or she is in, if it be...And it's also my understanding, which is interesting, is that...to me anyway, is that in looking at the PERF study, which was a study done on the Omaha Police Division, that there are three sections, generally three sections of the city, north, south and west, and that the city is broken into three sections as opposed to several other sections based on geographic or the demographics of the city, so that, in effect, after the first couple of years a police officer could bid out of the north section or the south section based on seniority. And the problem, as I understand it, that arises out of that situation is...or one of the problems is a staffing problem and that staffing problem, there's also a staffing problem that arises out of the fact that the officers work on a four day on, two day off schedule, which is somewhat unusual in police departments across the state. So that there are several factors of criteria that go into these concerns that are raised by this bill and, for the most part, these concerns need to be handled on a local level and not by the State Legislature. But the concern that Senator Chambers has brought to us is one that specifically deals with one aspect of staffing and that's geographic distribution and as, again, as I understand it, a police officer may bid, after two or three years, bid out of a particular geographic area and into another area and, in talking to certain police officers, when I asked them just about that problem they indicated to me that here's what happens; some of the better