

this year and that would mean that any law that was put in place would not kick in until after the new contract was in force. The amendment itself, in addition to the bill, much debate the first time we talked about it was on what may or may not happen this summer in terms of problems that could be brewing and I wouldn't argue that...and didn't argue at that time that there very likely could be some trouble this summer, but I don't know that it's related necessarily to this specific issue. The issue was, can it be addressed with more experienced officers or not and would this bill help alleviate that problem. With the Ashford amendment, it clearly points out that the...the problem is not of the kind of concern that it has to be immediately addressed in terms of this summer and, secondly, the bill itself, at the earliest, would be passed into law sometime in September because it doesn't have the E clause on it. The issue is one of, again, collective bargaining and whether or not the Legislature belongs involved in the collective bargaining aspect. At what point do we say that these are issues that the Legislature needs to address, and these are not? I would argue that the...the...what you have heard for the most part is the city and the police chief who are the ones, if this is a public safety issue, who are the ones of guilt, that are guilty of bargaining it away and now coming in, through Senator Chambers, and saying, here we want the Legislature to amend the law so that we don't have to abide by the contract that we put in place, and with the Ashford amendment, well, we'll abide by this contract, but for future contracts we don't ever want to have this issue on the table; we want to be able to at all times have the ability to assign patrol. Now do you think that the issue in terms of whether or not officers in the administration are assigned according to seniority or whether or not they are moved about when...with seniority being taken as a consideration in terms of jobs that open up, jobs that are appointed by the chief? Do you think those things are going to be taken off the table for purposes of whether or not upward mobility, job application or the ability to move within the administration end of the police department will be affected by this? No, it won't. I mean that will continue to be how it's done informally, not by contract but informally as it is done today. The only thing that you take off the table with the Chambers' bill and with the Ashford amendment is the issue of whether or not seniority has any part to play in terms of assigning of officers. Again, the contract allows for the chief of police to have a ability to assign some senior...