

Secretary: Vote explanation. Sen Boquist.

“HB 4201A is a phony attempt to placate protesters who have raised serious questions by creating a legislative committee appointed by the super majority who have been in power for decades to now review police accountability. Existing law allows the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to form such a committee without a new law. The bill is not needed. If this is an emergency, which it is, then forming a new legislative committee to suggest something next year is simply a stall. Creating a new committee or task force is the normal legislative means to kill a bill for political purposes. It is clear political pressure caused a complete about face in this emergency. No matter of rhetoric on the Floor changes these facts. The original Speakers’ bill proposed putting the Attorney General, the chief cop, chief prosecutor, and chief defender of state law enforcement and corrections officers, and state agencies in charge of accountability and investigations. Putting the defender of State’s potential abusers in charge of reform was a sham political proposal. The Attorney General already has this authority. The State needs a fully independent police accountability commission out of the reach of politicians, cops, lawyers, and prosecutors if we want reformation. Possibly even a separate People’s Court to oversee these types of tragic situations as the judiciary has failed as well. HB 4201A is an effort to bury any police reforms. Voted No.”