

in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. The motion is to close debate. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 35 ayes, no nays, 14 not voting Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very good. Senator DeCamp, you may close on your motion to indefinitely postpone, and I am calling back on you even though you said that you would not have anymore closing remarks, but I think that in view of the fact that debate has now been limited, that I should offer you that privilege.

SENATOR DEKAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will try and be very brief. I think that if we do pass the bill, I think that we should call it the guaranteed annual income, because as I understand it, after you have gone up to your five hundred dollars one year or four hundred and ninety-nine, ninety-nine, the next year you can start over, there is nothing in law that prohibits that. So we have guaranteed anybody in the state who wants a five hundred annual income in addition to what they have by writing checks at the right places. Another misleading thing, and possibly I am part responsible for this is this 12½% who are now in the penitentiary. Some of you are under the impression that this is for insufficient fund checks which apparently would be carried by this law. Let me correct that, that is not correct. They are there on what is known as paper or check related charges. The bulk of them are there on forgery or what has been established in a district court to be a concerted, intentional program of writing no fund checks, in which they were caught. Now I have the figures being checked out at this very moment which I doubt that I can get before we can vote on this on exactly how many are actually there and what is known and what we are thinking of as an insufficient fund check, and I did check this out about a year ago and as I recall the amount was merely a couple of people that would be under what we are thinking of here, and these were left over from before this bill was passed, so at 12½% figure should not mislead you. These are quote check or paper related charges. Professionals who have been caught up to, and most of them as I recall are forgery, and this bill wouldn't effect them anyway. It is going to have a certain amount of people that are going to be in prison whether you like it or not or be under the control of the law because they steal money by using forgery and such other articles. The other misapprehension that I think Senator Fellman and some of the others have contributed to is that somehow this bill is going to make everything on the local level. I will repeat to you, if you will read the existing law, where just the amendment, this doesn't change that at all, it is just right there exactly the same, you are using the old law for that part. Right now under the felony, if the court determines to go with the felony, they can use the local county jail and they are doing it in most of those cases, because it is figured to be a waste of time to send them to the penitentiary. So those three things, first of all there is no provision there that after they run up their misdemeanor charge which they can't probably make restitution for the first year, they can go the second year and have their guaranteed annual income of five hundred dollars. The second thing, the 12½% should not be thought to be insufficient fund checks, because it is not, it is check related charges, forgery and such things. The local level, it is all in the law now it is being used and you are not going to alter that one iota, it is right there now. And finally, the idea that this is somehow trying to strictly help or be a patsy for the business community and as Senator Carstens abely pointed out, checks are a two way street, they benefit the public as much or more than the bank. Now if you make it impossible for merchants to safely accept checks anymore, you then make the community dependent on two things, cash or credit cards, and if anything this bill could be said to be, the bankamericard and mastercharge bill and I am sure that Senator Chambers would not want to be identified with being the mastermind behind helping bankamericard and mastercharge.