

March 16, 1988

LB 1207

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully call the question at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now close? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Landis, for closing.

SENATOR LANDIS: A brief closing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, three and a half years ago over 200,000 people voted for amendment four. It was hotly debated. It was fiercely contested, but the people spoke very clearly. The only ones apparently who were deaf to the message was the Supreme Court and have rendered, basically, that work a nullity. That, to me, if that's the outcome, it will be a great shame, but insofar as we have any room to move because there is a lack of clarity, because there is a failure to address the issue directly, because there is a lack of direction given. To whatever extent, there is a shadow and I believe there is a significant shadow left in the controversy. This body owes it to those 200,000 people who believe they were writing organic law in this state and setting up policy to carry out that agenda. Now, there is a time to toss in the towel. There is a time to recognize when the last word has been spoken and I'm capable of doing that. But the last word has not been spoken in this chapter and, since it has not, I'm not prepared to jump ship. I believe we have to keep faith with the 200,000 people of this state who voted for amendment four, who believe they were making policy and who believe that they were creating organic law on exactly this topic. LB 1207 is the best way to keep faith with those people. I urge its advancement.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing and the question is the advancement of LB 1207 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Voting on the advancement of the bill. Senator Landis.