

January 6, 1982

General File, you could go on indefinitely so we tried to limit how many times you can reconsider a bill. The second rule change is from Senator Newell which makes the addition of an emergency clause on Select File after returning it from Final Reading to be the same number of votes, a majority as it would be to amend any other addition to a bill. The third rule change is from Senator Wiitala and it deals with the question of voting in the Chamber, and it says that if you are in the Chamber, you can vote but if you are not in the Chamber you can't vote. The fourth rule change is a motion to adjourn which Senator Lamb brought to my attention last year. It basically said that we didn't have anything in the rules about adjournment and there was a decision made that was incorrect and we are making it clear that a majority of those voting is all it takes to adjourn. The fifth rule change is explanation of votes which says you have to be excused in order to insert in the Journal how you would have voted if you had been present. The sixth rule change concerns committee statements and what we are saying here is, and this is from me, when a bill is amended on General or Select File, there is an updated summary of the bill. Right now a summary is done when a bill is advanced from committee, but if it is amended on General and Select File, there is really no way to know what the summary of the bill should be because there was no update done, and what we say is that it is important at all stages to know what is in the bill in a summary fashion. The seventh rule change is called the cloture rule. It would say that after five hours of debate on any stage of consideration a motion would be in order to cease debate and vote on the issue at hand. Now this is trying to stop long debates that aren't really necessary and are basically filibusters. The eighth rule change is suspension of the rules. It makes it harder to suspend the rules which is I think important because if at any point you can suspend the rules, there isn't much of a point to having rules. The ninth rule change is from Senator Beutler, and just says that the model committee rules that we have developed are available to you and you can use them as your committee desires. It doesn't mandate anything. The tenth rule change says that the Lieutenant Governor can't vote on Final Reading to break a tie which is a Supreme Court decision recently. The eleventh rule change is priority bills saying...this is from Senator Newell, which says that priority status remains for two chances on General and one chance on Select but after that it goes back to a nonpriority status of a bill. The twelfth rule change deals with indefinite postponement. It says that if you want to indefinitely postpone on Select or General File, it lays over a day, but if