

January 6, 1982

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of proposed amendment, #13 of the rules.

SENATOR CLARK: The Chair orders the motion passed and the rule adopted. We now go to #14. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is a very noncontroversial rule change dealing with the limitation of bill introductions. I expect we can deal with it rather rapidly. This was a subject of some concern last session and we spent a little time on it. I don't know if we've changed much. Maybe we will spend as much time as last time or maybe less but nevertheless what we are proposing is an attempt to one, limit bills once again which last session was repealed from the rules but, number two, try and provide some flexibility for individuals to co-sign bills. So what we do is, we allow fifteen bills in a long session, eight bills in a short session for an individual senator. We allow eight bills per committee at any of the sessions, long or short. We say after a bill is introduced you can add your name to the bill if you get the cooperation of the introducer or if you get...well, and/or, get the support of the unanimous consent of the Legislature. We also make the Governor subject to the same rules and provisions that the Legislature is under, that is to say he can't introduce a bill at any point, similarly we can't. If we want to introduce a bill it's got to be in the first 10 days. If it is after that point, a committee has to support it. Then there has to be the approval of the Legislature in order to do that. The Governor falls into that and also the Governor would not be able to introduce bills through a senator and not have that bill count against the senator's bill limit total. We are saying that if we are limited, the Governor should be limited, at least to some degree. So this is a key issue. It's a philosophical issue. It is one that deals with your version and vision of what you are doing as a representative of your district. If your belief is that you should have unlimited bills and a chance to do whatever you feel you need to for your district, then you will want to oppose this amendment. If you feel that it is impossible to deal with all the issues and problems and potential legislation that may be proposed, the Legislature just in the sixty or ninety days that we have doesn't have the time to deal with those issues, then you will want to support this bill limit. That seems to be the basic issue. You all have your own individual attitudes and ideas. I would certainly encourage your support for this compromise. I think it is a reasonable one. We have discussed the idea of constitutional limits on bill