

January 9, 1989

Moore is also involved in this. This would put into place the original guarantee that the introducer of a bill in that may be provided the opportunity to speak on a motion to indefinitely postpone. The reason for that is that sometimes on occasion, it has happened in the past, where a motion to suspend the rules and cease debate does not offer the introducer of the bill, if they haven't already talked, a chance to debate. Senator Moore and Senator Withem have agreed to an amendment which will take the place of the amendment as described on page 33 and I will now turn to Senator Moore to offer his amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem first, and then Senator Moore.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, thank you, members of the body, for bearing with me. This is the last of the rule changes that I had suggested, and this is another one that was prompted by an incident that occurred on the floor last year. Last year, as I recall, we were debating a bill. A kill motion had been offered. The introducer of the bill had exercised his option to lay the bill over. It was brought up on a subsequent date. It was brought up, the first speaker to speak was the introducer of the kill motion. It was then followed, the speaking order was then followed by five or six or seven speakers, all wishing to see the bill killed. The next individual who had their light on moved to cease debate. Debate was ceased, and during the time of that debate, the principal introducer of the bill did not have an opportunity to speak and explain why his bill should not be killed. It seemed to be an unfair part of our process, a glitch in the rules that allowed that to take place. I introduced the amendment that you had before you originally coming from the committee that would have given the prime sponsor of the bill an opportunity to give a preclosing statement; immediately before the closing, the prime sponsor of the bill would be afforded the opportunity to speak. Senator Moore, probably rightfully, thought, well, that maybe gives the prime introducer of the bill a little bit of an unfair advantage in being able to be the next to the last person to speak. He wanted it to be followed immediately after the individual had opened on the kill motion, so that is what our amendment does. Under this amendment, after a motion to indefinitely postpone a bill has been offered, and offered, in this case, means presented to the Clerk, introduced, and argued for the ten minutes opening, then the principal introducer has an opportunity at that time to defend his or her bill, so that we make sure that individual gets an opportunity to speak sometime