

So I do appreciate the work being done on this legislation. It has taken some time in debate, but it is something we haven't done for a long time and needed to be done and I appreciate that we've had the discussion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to support Senator Haberman's amendment and also echo the statements by Senator Hall and Senator Wesely. As our population ages and demographically it is shown that it certainly is doing that, I'm sure we'll be addressing more and more issues for the population as it grows older, and a standing committee will allow those people who are older to come conveniently before it. We do have to address how to staff or how to man the committee and fit it in, and I would think that the Rules Committee and some of the input from the other senators over the next year and a half, next two sessions, this one and the 60-day session, we should be able to resolve a good method whereby the Retirement Committee would be able to fit in conveniently with the rest of the standing committees. Would suggest that while we're doing that, that we look at the possibility of some of the committees who have short hearing sessions, perhaps we could alternate the one days with the committees that have the least work that are already standing committees. With that, I'd urge the support for this particular amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, would you care to close on the adoption of your amendment?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I would urge you to support this amendment and I hope it turns out that the committee does get a day that we can find. I'm sure we can find a slot for it because it doesn't look too good, folks, to have a heavy issue or issues of retirement before the public and having people sitting there eating a sandwich, eating a salad and drinking coffee and milk because some people insist that they are going to have their noon lunch and that's when we meet, we meet for an hour. But the issues that we handle and as important as this committee is, I feel that it should have its slot, we should start at one-thirty, go as long as we wish instead of having 15 minutes on this issue and 15 minutes on that issue. So I thank the body for the support and ask you to adopt the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.