

same rules that they'd like to see all committees follow and I can't imagine anyone opposing this particular proposal because I think it is probably in the interest of fairness and equity. It is something that should have been done a long time ago, if you support a piece of legislation like LB 189. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Abboud amendment, Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, support Senator Abboud. It seems like that maybe through the years and when we observe how the body has operated and so on, maybe this is the time to change the method and bring it more fair, let the public know and also give a better opportunity for more people to show an interest in these committees and do their homework and to serve. So, I, too, support Senator Abboud.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members, I would stand reluctantly but respectfully suggest we not support this rule change. Two reasons. First of all, the recommended amendment does not change what the policy already is and exists in the rules for the election of the Rules Chairman from the...by the body and the selection of the members of the Rules Committee at Committee on Committees. Secondly, the division of the question that has to do with the Maintenance Committee concerns me about putting a responsibility like that in the statutes. I understand the concern of Senator Abboud. However, it is the kind of responsibility, as important as it might be, that can change and probably will and maybe even should, in some cases, and that I think the way the system now provides where there is, in fact, some oversight offered by a representative group of senators, as it applies to those who maintain our buildings and our grounds, is really adequate. I would...I asked Senator Warner first if I could mention bad policy, and so I will. But maybe he'll do it again. This is one of those things where definitely I think the placing in the statutes of a committee chairmanship, such as maintenance and grounds, would be probably more bad policy than good, and respectfully suggest that we not support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Warner.