

SENATOR ASHFORD: I will work on this thing between now and Select File and I will attempt to ease the problems which are easily identifiable and can easily be changed. The bill should not be bracketed. The bill should be advanced to Select File today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chizek, please.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President and colleagues, this kind of legislation we have dealt with for about three years, as many of you know. The bill, LB 159, was a bill basically the same as the bill that Senator Ashford said was passed last year. However, the Judiciary Committee staff has been working not just with the business community, not just with the trial attorneys, for about seven days we have been deeply involved in trying to reach an agreement on this particular piece of legislation. Now I can guarantee you if we can't deal with LB 159 and get some degree of compromise and that's why the bracketing motion was offered, if we can't get some degree of compromise, then I can assure you, colleagues, year after year after year we will be dealing with this kind of legislation until it's running out your ears. I think we're close. Senator Conway has offered the bracket motion and I support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Conway, would you like to close on your motion to bracket, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. President and members, I appreciate Senator Ashford's comments. I offered the bracket motion with the idea that there were some minor adjustments that we would buy just enough time to finalize that and possibly satisfy those who are concerned. Like I say, it's up to the body the extent to which they would like to have the bill in that particular form if, in fact, there is an agreement. I do firmly believe that if we bracket it for March 2nd, that that is a final date, as Speaker Barrett alluded to. If the body sees fit to run the bill today, then that's certainly the body's determination. But, at this point, again, I had agreed to buy that much time if the body so concurred, but I do appreciate Senator Ashford's comments. This bill was advanced, sent to the Governor last year and was vetoed. We had 33 votes at that point. There is a change in the makeup of the body that there are some people here today that were not a part of the discussions and the debate that was held on this bill over the last two years and that may put them in a bit of a less comfortable situation. But I offered the