

of the body, I think we're well aware of what the amendment is. It's on page 740. I would like to take just a minute to review the body on what happened last time so that we can get perspective as we move forward to hopefully Final Reading and passage of the bill as amended. Not too long ago, a few weeks ago, Senator Dierks, myself, Speaker Barrett, Senator Moore and I think that might have been the group at some point, came to an agreement and the agreement was that I would pull whatever amendments I had except the major one which is before us today, and Senator Moore would pull his amendments so that there would be no more delaying on LB 48 and the body could take its time debating the one amendment and then get the bill, vote on the bill and the amendment up or down, one way or the other. And it was my intent not to delay the body any further on a bill which, on the realm of importance of some of the major legislation we have, is not certainly one of the high-ranking ones of the session, yet it has taken an exorbitant amount of time. Unfortunately, what happened was when the bill came up last week, we had a major...well, not a major storm, but we had a storm come through and there were a lot of people particularly in support of my amendment from the Omaha area who were unable to make it at the time of the voting of the amendment. Therefore, I chose to go with the agreement. I chose to say, listen, I agreed that we would not delay the body any more, I don't have the votes on my amendment at that point because the people simply weren't...were unable to be here because of the storm, therefore, I withdrew my amendment, allowing the bill to come up face to face with the body and saying I'm not delaying it any further, let us get a vote on LB 48. And Senator Dierks had his shot right then and there, a vote on Select File, no other amendments on his bill. Senator Dierks chose, or maybe I should rephrase that, Senator Landis chose to help LB 48 by making a kill motion and, surprisingly, it was laid over. Consequently, LB 48 is again with us today. Now at that particular point be...having it laid over, I again then said, okay, apparently the negotia...the deal is off, we're not going to move this bill through and we're going to delay the body even further so I went ahead and offered my amendment one more time. This amendment has only been voted on in the body one time on General File. There were people absent. Twenty people voted in favor of my amendment, 18 voted against at that point. So the amendment has always had a majority of those voting and it has not been voted on since that time, and since that time, there have been some, what I would call, substantial changes to make the amendment even more appealing to the body. In just a very