

to take them home or out and use them. So I would hope that you would figure out, I can't believe that there isn't a mechanism to bring a bill like that, if you want to, but I do not believe it should be included in this one and I support the Chair. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else? If not, the Chair assumes we are ready for a vote, and...any member can speak one time, Senator Ashford. We have in the past apparently allowed a closing. Please proceed.

SENATOR ASHFORD: A brief closing, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I am, I do, I will for the sake of the process, apologize for taking up the time on this bill, but I have been very frustrated on this issue because of the interpretation given by the Attorney General and others on the constitutional amendment that was passed. Senator Wesely, early on, before the session started, sent out a very good memorandum about...on state laws and their effect on this issue, and the West Virginia Supreme Court recently ruled that, in 1988, the last part of 1988, a constitutional amendment more restrictive than ours prevented very reasonable gun regulations, so it is a very frustrating thing for me. Also someone mentioned that this looks like the start of my run for Congress. I think my reply was it probably was going to be the start of a lot of people trying to run me over rather than that. But, seriously, many states have now dealt with this issue. There is really no other vehicle, Senator Crosby, and I appreciate your point, but there really isn't any other vehicle to deal with this. This is a crime and punishment section. This is a very real problem. California just recently, on March 13th, voted to ban assault rifles, and, of course, we have already talked about the issue of the federal government, and I think President Bush and others are correct that a lot of this action must be taken on the federal level and not the state level. In answer to Senator Schmit's concern, I, also, am concerned about definition of weapons. My amendment says more than five rounds of ammunition, and my point in doing that was to not include the deer rifle and the semiautomatic hunting rifle, but I am not an expert on guns and certainly I think that that is one of the issues that needs to be discussed is what kind of weapons are dangerous, violent, combat rifles, and what kind of weapons are legitimate hunting and sports rifles. I have said in the past and will continue to say over and over again that I am not after those weapons at all, but I think that the only way that we are going to be able to deal