

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, discussion on the motion to suspend.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, we still are in a situation where we are going to pick and choose based on the issue whether or not we will have a liberal interpretation of how a bill should be amended or a strict one. We are doing indirectly that which we will not directly do as a body. What I would like to do is see us suspend the germaneness rule for the rest of the session, then the argument can be made on the basis of what the Constitution, as interpreted by the court, has ruled germaneness to mean. But, once again, we will do it with an additional step. We are going to pick and choose based on the issue as to whether or not to suspend the germaneness rule. I don't have any interest in whether you suspend the rule at this point or not, but I did have an interest in the Chair's ruling, and I would rather that the Chair had ruled that the amendment was germane because I believe in that, that broad interpretation. I am going to see how many of my conservative friends vote to suspend this rule to allow an amendment that they want on a particular bill because of what the amendment says. If we have another situation where an amendment is just as related to the subject matter as this one is to the present bill before us, there will be a vote against suspending the rules because you won't want to deal with the issue, but I have to abide by the vote of the majority if it reaches 30.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Landis.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, fellow senators. I want to commend the Chair for the ruling. I think the ruling is correct and proper. I would also commend Senator Landis for explaining exactly the process by which we should allow amendments of this nature to be added to particular bills because it seems to me there is that mechanism to suspend the rules if we want to add an amendment that may not be particularly germane to a particular bill, and I wish this process would be used more often. I am going to vote to suspend the rules. I think this is a bill that is a good bill. I think that in LB 147 we are suggesting that we increase the number of district court judges from 48 to 50. It seems to me that there is also a real problem in the juvenile court system, and for that reason I would move to suspend. Rather than have a broad interpretation of the germaneness rule, Senator Chambers, what I