

point, if it hasn't already. Myself, along with the...or I, along with the other members of the Judiciary Committee, have offered a resolution which would look into...gather input from the public, as an interim study, in an attempt to seek a long-term solution. I think that, hopefully, we'll be able to do that over the summer, take a look and get input from the people who are being most affected by it and arrive at a solution. In the meantime, though, I believe that this bill would be at least a step in the right direction. I would, for that reason, urge that you vote against the IPP motion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Abboud a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Abboud, the felony provisions that exist in the law, right now, and the types of offenses that you're talking about hitting with a mandatory minimum would be felonies under the existing law, the maximum that can be sentenced would be 50 years. Can a judge, right now, sentence to a term with a minimum of three years?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Five years?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Ten years?

SENATOR ABOUD: It won't happen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But can they, under the present system?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, they can.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Fifteen years?

SENATOR ABOUD: I think you know the answer, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, the answer is, yes. Thank you. Senator Lindsay, I'd like to ask you a question.