

with what they concluded, but nevertheless, they have concluded that the language is ambiguous and conflicting, almost contradictory from the way they want to construe it. And the Attorney General had indicated that the way to clear the whole thing up is to just have a straightforward district election bill for the Douglas County Board. What the committee amendments will do, among other things, is to clear up and clear out all of that ambiguous language that pertains to Douglas County. So in order that we can have a clean proposition before us, I hope you will vote no on Senator Labeledz's amendment. Where we are right now as a result of that reconsideration motion is that her amendment is before us. Her amendment would effectively gut the bill, take most of the provisions out and purport to establish a process by which the members are nominated by district, then elected at large. But there is no procedure in her amendment that would move the Douglas County from an at large to a district system. It is a somewhat complex bit of work that has to be undertaken, and in conjunction with others, we put together an amendment to the committee amendments that would do that. The committee amendments in effect will become the bill. In order that we can have an unencumbered discussion of the issues themselves, I hope you will defeat Senator Labeledz's amendment. So on the next vote we take I'm asking that you vote no. Then we will have the committee amendments as they came from the committee. I would at that time offer an amendment that would contain the mechanism for moving from an at large to a district system. I would ask you at that point to amend the committee amendments with that amendment, then adopt the committee amendments which become the bill. And at that point we could clearly focus on what the issues are that 588 will address. So I'm hoping, for the reasons discussed earlier and that will be discussed by others again, that you will vote to defeat Senator Labeledz's amendment when it is put to a vote. And by the way, since we're on General File, it just takes a simple majority because it's an amendment to an amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, that will not be necessary. Senator Labeledz, would you care to make a closing comment?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just briefly, Mr. President, thank you.