

and they should be recognized for the responsibility that they have.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you, Senator Hall. Again, I think this is last minute, hastily drafted, and I don't see anything that is eliminated from the present authority of the Metro Area Transit. And I think this is in the wrong section, and I think this is last minute and should not be accepted. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch. Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Hall, to close.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, the motion here is one to return to Select File. And I would just...suspend the rules, excuse me. And I would appreciate your support in doing that. I offer the amendment on behalf of the board of directors because I think that they clearly are very deserving of the increase. It is not something that I take lightly, nor should I think any of us take lightly, because it is a multi million dollar operation. The requirement for an increase is one that takes statutory change. It is a salary figure that they have had for 17 years. It is a large increase, I guess, percentagewise, but it is not very large when you...\$150 increase...150 percent increase. I sure didn't oppose the 300 percent increase that I received when our salaries went up. I would like to see this happen for those people because many of them work a considerable number of hours in making sure that Metro Area Transit operates as basically a fine business operation as best they can, because there is a very competitive nature for the number...limited number of federal dollars that are out there. I think they do a good job and they are something that the entire state has the ability to be very proud of. So I would urge the opportunity to suspend the rules so we could return the bill to Select File and adopt the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Question is the suspension of the rules. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator Hall.