

May 15, 1989

LB 761

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands?

SENATOR McFARLAND: Excuse me, I would object. I don't think we need to debate this long, but only one person has spoken on the bill.

PRESIDENT: Okay. I didn't see five hands, anyway. Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Schmit and Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I've tried not to speak on this issue, but rather than listen to the arguments, and I voted practically for every amendment that's been offered. And I think, however, at this particular point the Legislature has exhausted its goals as far as achieving a voting provision. I don't quite understand the amendment when we're asking consent to have a vote in a county that the vote will not mean anything. It doesn't seem to be sensible. It's sort of like passing a mediation law without it being binding. I guess I would suggest, if we're going to do it, let's do it up right, or up front and say that it means something. I voted for those amendments in the past, would vote for them in the future. But this amendment I have some difficulty with. Overall I guess what I'm looking for, what I've been trying to obtain in listening to the arguments is some new information that would be presented to us that would help support getting 25 votes. It is very apparent that we have gone through a lot of time this afternoon discussing a lot of important topics, but there is not a consensus in order to achieve some of the goals that the folks who are going to be most affected by this facility have not been able to get the votes to achieve those ends. So, it almost seems fruitless to continue to argue these same amendments, but I'm still going to be sitting here listening to the arguments, but I don't think this amendment or any other is probably going to go the rest of the day today. That's not to say that people are tired or frustrated, I just think that the arguments haven't been laid out in a fashion which 25 people, at least, agree that the amendment is worthwhile. So, I'll listen to Senator McFarland's closing to better understand the amendment. I guess I'm a little confused as to what the amendment actually does and how it will affect our role in the compact.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.