

January 8, 1990

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 192 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, do you...

CLERK: Senator McFarland voting no. 22 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails.

PRESIDENT: The call is raised. We will move on to Senator Lamb's motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have a motion to amend the permanent rules as offered by Senator Lamb. Senator Lamb's proposal is on page 183 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, and members, you do have on your desk the proposed rule change along with a letter addressed to Senator Lynch behind it. As somebody mentioned on the floor, we have a tendency to forget about our problems with the rules when we get around to the point of amending the rules at the first of every session. This comes about, this rule change comes about as a result of a problem that arose during the last session when a bill was not reported out of committee within the eight day period, and the argument came as a result of what does constitute final action in committee in regard to a bill. Now I have always assumed, and I think most people assume, that final action in the committee is when the committee votes either to advance the bill or to indefinitely postpone the bill. However, under this situation, it was taken to the Speaker because the bill was not reported to the Legislature within eight days after the bill was advanced from committee, and so as you will read on the second page in Senator Barrett's, Speaker Barrett's letter in regard to this issue, down there about two-thirds of the way down, and it is underlined, he is saying that under our rules, final action is not clearly defined, and this additional language merely does what I thought was clearly defined in that final action shall mean an affirmative vote of the committee members to advance the bill to General File with or without committee amendments or to indefinitely postpone the bill. A committee may reconsider any final action prior to the committee