

January 8, 1990

making a report on the bill or resolution to the Legislature, provided the reconsideration takes place within eight calendar days of the final action. Now this is the, in my opinion, this is the established procedure. It merely clarifies what we have been doing, and I would ask that this rule change be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the bill Senator Lamb is referring to was a bill in the Health and Human Services Committee dealing with day care, and so the scenario he outlined was one in which I was, of course, involved as Chairman of that committee. His amendment is attempting to deal with what was an interpretation problem, and I, frankly, don't have much of a problem trying to one way or the other figure out how we handle those, because I sure don't want to go through what we did on that bill again. The basic problem is this. You have different bills that come before committees, and you all have sat through enough of these to know that there are occasions in which the committee decides that you are going to handle a bill a certain way, amend it in a certain fashion, but you have no amendment before you that actually has the language that you would need to adopt. You vote for things in concept and so, in this instance, we voted for something in concept. It was a concept based on a Kansas law that we had knowledge of but did not have actual access to, and so the committee voted to in concept amend the bill and to go along these lines. And so it was followed up by myself to get ahold of Kansas to get this information back, and, frankly, it just didn't come in until eight days were up, and then we were in a three day recess, and so over the recess period, we took that language and amended...drafted an amendment and went back to the committee and decided there was more complications than we thought because of the complexity of the situation, and so we pulled the bill back in, which is where we got into a conflict with Senator Lamb. All I am saying is that is water under the bridge, over the dam, and all behind us, but the concept problem of drafting amendments for committees is one that we always run into and the only question I have is with the amendment as Senator Lamb would have, obviously, those of us in committees when you sit down and you say, well, let's do this. This would really put a stop to concept amendments knowing that if in eight days you didn't have it, you would have to report the bill out with nothing. I mean that is part of the problem. If you didn't have the amendment ready, how do you report the