

not by...we're not talking about their tenure. We're not talking about the kind of cases that they hear, we're talking about whether or not the Legislature will have a role in deciding who the judges are going to be, is a constitutional question. And Senator Kristensen has raised a constitutional question with LR 8. We can deal with, as he suggested earlier, some of these other concerns, legislative concerns, next year if this passes. But we're getting to the essence of the court of what...are we going to have a role in deciding who these judges are? If we are not going to have that role, then we can vote no. But it is certainly not a germaneness issue. It's another aspect of the same constitutional problem. So if we want to vote no and say, no, we don't want to have a role in who these judges are, that's something we can do later, but let's at least have an opportunity to vote up or down on that and not defeat this amendment on a germaneness issue when it's clearly germane as a constitutional question. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any member may speak one time. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, I'm just going to comment to the germaneness issue. Well, first I would like to say first that this amendment that Senator Ashford offered is in a lot of way flawed but we're not going to get into that maybe until after the ruling...decision as to the ruling of the Chair. But it is interesting, in looking at the germaneness issue, I think that, unfortunately, as far as I am concerned, the Chair is very much in order here. When we changed the rules towards the beginning of the session, a few days ago, we really opened up a Pandora's box and Senator Chambers is well aware of that, I'm sure. And maybe some of the members that have been around here a little longer were aware of it as well. And what comes around goes around and we're going to have a very interesting session, I'm sure, aren't we, Senator Chambers, when we start debating some issues, that originally probably this amendment, I'm quite positive, would not have applied under the old germaneness rule but anything that deals with the subject matter is basically germane. I think it's unfortunate but that's what we're going to have to live with for the rest of the year. So I'm going to be supporting the Chair on this motion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, am