

saying, but it doesn't take away the right to appeal. I wanted it crystal-clear in the record what this...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...LR 8 does, and when it does go out to the public, because I know the Legislature is going to vote to put it on the ballot, then we will be embalmed in the record that was put together on this bill. So I'm going to vote against advancement, and I hope the bill does not get enough votes to advance. And I would ask for a machine vote when time comes to advance it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are no other lights. The question remains, shall LR 8 be advanced to E & R engrossing? A machine vote has been requested. Those in...Senator Kristensen, your light is not on. Did you care to make a closing statement?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Do I have the opportunity for closing?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yes, sir.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you. I would briefly close, because I think most of you are going to probably have questions posed to you when you go home, or in your town hall meetings, or whatever, what in the world are you doing with LR 8, and what's going to show up on our constitutional ballot? LR 8CA recognizes a couple of things. One, it recognizes that the third branch of government, the Supreme Court, is in jeopardy, it's in trouble because of the backlog. It recognizes that we have seven justices can't handle the huge volume of cases, and it recognizes that we need to change a basic philosophy in this state of the right of automatic appeal for every case. Every case cannot go to the Supreme Court and expect to be heard, at least from this day forward, in an expeditious manner. It's two years this year, and in ten years it's going to be four years, if we don't do something. That was recognized by a study in 1976. And in '76 they said we were long overdue to take care of this backlog. What this constitutional resolution will do is it will state that we are going to have only capital cases, those are the death penalty cases, and cases dealing with the constitutionality of statute will have automatic rights of appeal. All other cases, those are the criminal cases, those could be all the felony cases, will have the absolute right to