

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays, to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Lindsay, for closing.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I have heard, as we have debated this, I guess I have heard several issues popping up, and I would like to discuss those, treat those a little bit. Senator Warner mentioned that this amendment could have been attached to other bills, and it certainly could have been, to the other two bills. There is no question about that. I would say that I had originally intended to attach it at Select but we kind of went through Select in an awful hurry which may be indicative of the session in the speed with which we're handling the bills and I chose not to at that time because we simply didn't even have enough people here to, I don't think, to get the 25 votes to attach it. The idea is we've got a problem, we have tried to solve it. We've got...and we'll find out the numbers as soon as we vote on the bill itself. We have got differing opinions as to whether it solves the problem or whether it exacerbates the problem or whether it's just not going to do a thing, we just don't know. Our actions are inherently controlled by the actions of the Supreme Court. We've got to find out what they think about it because those seven opinions are the ones that matter. This is an attempt to get those opinions, get that opinion from the Supreme Court in a timely fashion so that we can take some action and that is the intent of the amendment. Yes, Senator Warner, is correct, we might...it might force us to stay a couple of days. As Senator Withem points out, that seems to be a fair trade. The alternative is, and it may be the alternative anyway, that we'll spend seven or 10 days next fall in another special session. We may end up doing it anyway but I don't think that that should be a factor in determining whether or not we add an amendment to a bill. I think we have to go on the merits of the amendment and vote on that and not let that question of whether we have to stay a day or two enter into your thinking. I agree with Senator Withem, I would just as soon get home, too. I've got a practice that I could be working on, but if it means to clean up the legislation a little bit, I think it's worth doing. I would urge the adoption of the amendment and I will give the balance of my time to Senator Chambers.