

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President, I would like to pull that amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Is there anything further on the bill?

CLERK: There is, Madam President. The next amendment is by Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that is indicated on the board on page 1648 of the Journal and it addresses really four different issues contained in the bill in which if someone wishes to have them separated, I have no objection. First one would expand the composition to ten from, composition of nine people and would add one member who was registered as an Independent. The basis for this again is two things. One is the bill itself, calls for any party which receives 5 percent of the vote under the prescribed conditions of the bill to be authorized to have someone...to have members placed on this board. Independents run in excess of 6 percent, or at least it did at the last election I looked at. So, obviously, there is justification on that basis and then, secondly, I believe such revision already exists with the accountability commission where an Independent registered individually is also a member of that board. Secondly, there are amendments which would require that the composition of a board which is already required to be as near as possible with nine members not to exceed five at least. It would be a member of one political party in order to provide balance. This refines that a little bit and says in that process that those who are submitted must have been registered as, to whatever their registration, Independent, Republican or Democrat for at least five years prior to their appointment. And the reason for that, even though it is true that the provision is for the two parties to, at least for party representation to submit names of individuals, that's not necessarily true of some of the other appointments and, historically, if you look back where there was a required balance of registration, it was not unusual in the past to see someone meet that qualification simply by changing their