

okay in the speaking order here.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** You certainly are.

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Okay. I was originally going to be supportive of this section of the Warner amendment regarding the addition of the Independent, but having heard Senator Conway's explanation of there being other avenues by which an Independent can be chosen to be on the board, I don't really feel that this specific statement needs to be listed in the bill, so I will be voting against it primarily because of the problem you have by creating even numbered boards that cause potentials for deadlock and I would not be supportive of that. So I'm not going to vote in favor of the Warner amendment.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Withem. Anyone else wishing to speak to this first section of the Warner amendment, the first six lines of the Warner amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Warner, did you wish to close?

**SENATOR WARNER:** Again, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, reading from the statute books covering the Accountability Commission which is one of the precedents that I've suggested, states that appointments will be made in such a manner to ensure that not more than four of the eight appointed members of the commission shall be from the same political party and at least one member shall be registered as an Independent and such person shall have been so registered for at least two years prior to his appointment. So the precedent is there and, again, by the very nature of the bill itself, if you're going to recognize an organized party with 5 percent of the vote, it seems rather illogical to me not to also recognize something over 6 percent of the vote already on a statewide basis. So for that reason alone, it would seem certainly justified. Finally the fact that you have a 10-member board in which potentially you could have a 5-5 vote is not one that I would be concerned with. In fact, the mere suggestion that the vote might be 5-4 suggests that it would be a partisan vote rather than a policy vote. The fact that you would have to go to six, it would mean, with a 10-member board, it could just as easily mean that you are less likely to have a partisan vote but more likely to have a policy vote because it would require people of more than one political registration to concur in their decisions and I think that in itself is beneficial. With that, Mr. President, I move adoption of the first portion of the amendment.