

next item, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Schellpeper. There are 82 fourth graders from Schuyler Elementary in Schuyler, and their teachers. They are in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Also some guests of Senator Robinson. There are three of his constituents from Burt County, and they are also in the south balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Warner would move to amend the bill, Mr. President. (Warner amendment, AM1423, can be found on page 1782 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure...let me explain this amendment. This is an effort to have the Independent voter represented. You will recall, this morning I offered a motion that made an additional member as for a total of 10, and there was some objection that there was a feeling that they did not want an even number. And I took it from the conversation if one person was designated, among the nine, to represent Independent voters, why it would be acceptable. What this amendment does, it does assure that at least one member is a registered Independent, and such person would have been registered as an Independent for at least two years prior to his or her appointment. In offering that, I should point out, because the way the bill is structured, the only position that would qualify is the chairman. But in order to stay at nine, and to have the Independent voter, which constitutes something in excess of 6 percent of the voters, in order that they would have representation on this board this is the purpose of the amendment. But it does, as a practical matter, mean that the chairman would be the individual who would be the Independent. In some respects, I suspect that the concern that this legislation may create is primarily of a partisan nature, in any event. And maybe there is some logic to having the chairman as an Independent. But, in any event, I preferred what I offered this morning, but at least this does provide an Independent representation, although it is limited to the chairman, as a practical matter.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Is there any discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Warner? Seeing