

voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Conway, do you wish to close on the advancement of LB 579? Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Baack. I was over there trying to beg just a couple of minutes from Senator Conway on the closing, until he reminded me this is my bill and that I would be closing on it. So I'm not going to give him any of my...no, I will be giving him most of the closing time. I just wanted to take a second or two to respond to Senator Lamb's questions regarding the Attorney General's Opinion on this bill. The Attorney General, as I understand the ruling here, did not question very much of the bill. He raised two points that he thinks raise constitutional questions. One of those was addressed very specifically and directly by the Conway amendment dealing with the Attorney Gen...or the Secretary of State's constitutional duties being returned back to him. The other one deals with this question of the Governor's abil...are we unduly restraining the Governor's ability to appoint by saying he can only appoint from a list of individuals that we submit. And the Attorney General calls that into question, doesn't give a definitive opinion that I could read, he calls it into question. Our discussions on that were that we do this a lot, with a lot of different commissions. There are a lot of different commissions out there. Accountability and Disclosure, after which this was patterned, has this restriction in it. So, because it exists in statute that it would be not something...new ground that the Legislature is breaking by passing this, so it was our determination to leave this as it is, and maybe somewhere along the line, in any of the commissions that are out there, that we have some ways put some restrictions on Governor's appointment authority. It may be challenged some day. But this is not a unique idea here in this bill. So the questions of, can we do this under the Constitution, I think the general theme behind the bill is very directly in line with the power the Legislature does have. With that, I'd urge you to advance the bill, and give the rest of my time to Senator Conway.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Conway, you have about three minutes.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. I think the question of the AG opinion was adequately addressed by you, and