

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I apologize for my voice but I have sat on the General Affairs Committee for four years, and every year there has been an attempt by the General Affairs Committee and this Legislature to allow local municipalities or counties the ability to control the number of liquor establishments that have sprung up and proliferated in those jurisdictions, and the way that the Constitution has been interpreted in the past, that ability has been denied the municipalities. The thrust of this constitutional amendment is to do exactly what we have tried to do for years, and that is to allow a local municipality or a county the ability to control reasonably the proliferation of liquor and alcoholic beverage establishments within their jurisdictions. I believe that we should do it and allow that jurisdiction to have some solid background within the Constitution to be able to control what they see as a problem within their jurisdictions. With the amendment that has been offered, LR 9 should be advanced and the people given a chance to voice their thoughts about their own local issues. I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment and the advancement of LR 9.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Does anyone else wish to speak to the amendment? Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I think the amendment is entirely appropriate as the amendment, as I understand it, is simply striking language that deals with a legal issue that I don't think is central to the debate as to whether or not we should be permitted to delegate, as we may see fit in the future, powers to the municipalities to approve, suspend, deny, or revoke liquor licenses. Essentially, the amendment would be left with that portion of it intact which simply has to do with empowering us as a Legislature to delegate authority if we choose to do so later. And so I support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. I see no one else wishing to debate the amendment, Senator Schellpeper, do you have closing?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President, and members. I think the last couple senators have really explained it a little better than what we had been attempting to do here. The