

Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Ashford, I think that being somewhat of a neophyte in the legal arena, I have some...it would appear to me that this bill would actually be of a great advantage to the district attorney or the county attorney in Douglas County. By aggregating, you're going to have fewer of the charges to bring up because you're going to put them in one bunch. So it looks to me like a labor saving device rather than a labor causing device. I forget exactly what one of the other complaints was but I did misspeak when I made the opening here. I said that this was...that this had...that they had the closed...they couldn't write a closed...a check from a closed account for ten days or more, it's actually 30 days or more, so that would change your perspective perhaps a little bit, after they've been informed of its closure. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Anyone else wishing to discuss the amendment by Senator Beutler? Senator Beutler, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, just to mention quickly, Mr. President, that the purpose of the amendment is to reduce one of the particular offenses identified in the amendment from a Class IV felony back down to a Class II misdemeanor which is what it is in current law. So it's not reducing the penalty, it's just saying that there is probably no justification for increasing that penalty at least that drastically. And so, for the moment, it eliminates the higher penalty and restores it to present law. And if you're looking in your amendment to see the words that I'm striking, they would be on page 580 of the Legislative Journal, down on lines 16 and 17, but not 16 and 17 towards the top of the page, but lines 16 and 17 towards the middle of the page. I'm simply striking the new language at that point. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard Senator Beutler's closing on his amendment to the amendment. We will now vote on that amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment to Senator Dierks' amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The Beutler amendment is adopted. We are at the hour of ten-fifteen that was listed on the agenda. We will now