

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of LR 446.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LR 446 is adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of conducting business, I propose to sign and do sign Legislative Resolutions number LR 439 and 440. We will now go to Item 7 on the agenda, Select Committee Report. (See Select Committee Report found on page 2154 of the Legislative Journal.)

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lynch, as Chair of Rules Committee, would offer the Rules Committee report with respect to a proposed rules change offered by Senator Withem. The rules change being considered is found on page 358 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, although an hour has been set aside for this debate, hopefully it won't take very long at all. You've got a sheet that was passed around that identifies the three congressional district caucus for Executive Board and, below that, the four congressional district caucus for Committee on Committees. If you want to, you could fold it over like I have it and just turn it to the top 'cause that's all we're talking about. There is no intention to discuss the four committee caucuses or how they apply, whether or not it's good or bad. That is not the intention of this...of this Rules Committee recommendation at all. It only deals with the three congressional district caucus for Executive Board and, simply put in very few words, adds to their responsibility, the caucus's responsibility, not the responsibility of the Executive Board but the caucus's responsibility of appointing three members each to the Appropriations Committee, and that's it. Try to answer any questions you might have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, this is a rules change I introduced, to go through the history of it just a little bit. We had, at the beginning of the session, the dispute over what we do with our over all committee assignment process. The Rules Committee sent a three-caucus system to the floor of the Legislature. The body chose not to adopt that and, instead, adopted a variation on the old