

SPEAKER BAACK: We have a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: The house is under call. All members please report to the Chamber and record your presence. The house is under call. Senator Lynch, would you record your presence, please. Senator Landis, would you record your presence, please. Senator Hillman, would you record your presence, please. We need Senators Hall, Schmit, and Schrock. We are looking for Senators Schmit and Schrock. Senator Withem, we may proceed? A roll call vote has been requested. We are voting on the Withem amendment to the Hefner amendment. Mr. Clerk, call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 116-17 of the Legislative Journal.) 24 ayes, 17 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment fails. We will now proceed with discussion on the original amendment. The call is raised. Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Well, now that we have agreed that 18 will be the number, I guess what we need to do now is to go the opposite way and see which is the best plan that we are going to do. What we have now before us is the Hefner amendment which, basically, now asks the question, is the body better off with the amendment that we have now before us, Senator Hefner's amendment, or the LB 7 as the committee amendments amended it? And if you look at the map on what do we have before us with LB 7 as amended, you will note that it kind of looks like LB 614. There are a lot of squiggly lines, a lot of counties that are divided. Fascinating how that occurred. And I ask Senator Schellpeper and others, I said, you know, LB 7, when it was presented to the committee, didn't have all those squiggly lines, didn't have...it was kind of clean, what happened in this process so that now we have LB 7 as amended with all these little precincts, jogs, and what-have-you that other senators, from time to time, have said about LB 614 where, obviously, there has been a lot of gerrymandering involved? Incumbent protection, they cry. Worse plan they'd ever seen says Senator Peterson. Well, the answer that they gave us, well, it didn't look quite right. There was just a four mile corridor and that didn't quite look very well, so we thought we should widen it out, they say. And so they widened