

November 10, 1992 LB 1

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Chambers, I will rule that this is an appropriate...is a different stage of debate and it is appropriate to take it up at this time. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I challenge that ruling. I will tell you why. The board says Final Reading. This bill has not made it to Final Reading. E & R is not Final Reading. This bill has been returned to Select File. That is where it was today. That is where it has returned and the bill has not been sent to Final Reading after having passed through E & R. E & R is not a spot in our proceedings where anything can be done to the bill by the Legislature. Only those technical changes can be made by E & R which result from amendments or the corrections that might come from a misspelling, a misnumbering, or something of that kind, but nothing can be added at E & R, which has not been voted on by the Legislature. This bill has not been voted on in terms of any change that was made on E & R. It was not advanced to Final Reading. We have, members of the Legislature, three stages of debate and I think you ought to consider what is being said, because when we have a bill like this which people are so anxious to have moved, the rules often are bent. Our three stages of debate are General File, Select File, and Final Reading, although Final Reading is not designated formally and officially as a place for debate. E & R Initial is just a pass-through. No amending is done by the Legislature on E & R Initial. No amending is done at E & R Final, and I know there are people who want this bill so that they can change it, and almost anything will be done to achieve that purpose. But this is the same day that we considered this bill. This is the same stage of debate when we considered it. It was not sent to Final Reading. It could not be sent to Final Reading in the form that it is in now. So why are we going to pretend that something has happened which has not? Who, in here, will say that we, in fact, are dealing with Final Reading because that is where this bill was? It hasn't gone to E & R. How can it be on Final Reading when E & R has not processed it? This bill was returned from E & R Final. Let me ask Senator Hall a question, if I may, because I may have missed something. Senator Hall, would you answer a question?

SENATOR HALL: Madam President, members, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Has this bill been amended at all?