

January 19, 1995

CLERK: Senator, this is your provision that amends Rule 5, Section (5)(g).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you, Mr. Clerk. And I am having a copy brought around to your desks. If you are interested in seeing where this amendment is located, you can turn to Rule 5, subdivision (5), then subdivision (g) of subdivision (5) in the last two sentences. These are the words that would be stricken if my amendment is adopted. "This provision shall not be construed to prevent the Speaker from placing bills reported out of committee with two or less dissenting votes on a consent calendar. Any bill placed on consent calendar shall be removed at the written request of three or more senators." In effect, this would take the authorization out of the rules to have a consent calendar. There is not much that needs to be said to make what is being attempted clear to you, but you might want to know why I am doing it. Since our amendments that we offer don't require a statement of intent, I don't actually have to tell you that. So you can consider what is being proposed and make a determination of whether or not you agree with it. In case any of the new people are unaware of what the consent calendar is, I'll explain it very briefly. As stated in the words, some of which I am going to strike, if a bill comes out of committee with two or fewer than two dissenting votes, and in the Speaker's view it is not a controversial bill, it'll be placed on this consent calendar. That consent calendar comes out the day before we do it, generally, so you will have a chance to look at those bills, and any three senators who would object to one of these bills being on that calendar can submit in writing their objection and the bill is taken off. What the consent calendar will do is disregard the chronological order in which these bills emerge from committee, when they are introduced, or other considerations, and they often will be given consideration prior to bills that had been advanced to General File before them. And the noncontroversial nature of these bills is what gives them that favorite status. The rule is that fifteen minutes will be allowed for consideration of each of these bills, and if at the end of fifteen minutes the introducer of the bill is not in the process of closing, that bill will automatically fall from consent calendar. What my amendment would do is take out of the rules the affirmative, explicit authorization given to the Speaker to put such a calendar before us. I am convinced that a very great amount of discretion and authority beyond that which is wise was bestowed