

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I would just remind you this has been fairly well discussed the last time around. I would just remind you this is a bill that would put the local jails on the same level as the state prison system. Our state prison system has six months for six months good time, this would provide for seven days for seven days good time. It's a simple bill. Senator Fisher is around, I won't use the term noncontroversial again. But it is a...it is a fairly simple bill, that's the extent of what it does. I know Senator Witek has an amendment that's coming around and I believe Senator Hudkins also is going to have one. I think we can just move to discussion on those.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I understand there are amendments on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is by Senator Hudkins. AM173. (AM173 appears on page 556 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I did not have copies of this distributed. It is fairly simple, so if you don't mind, I'll just read it. "The changes made to this section by this legislative bill shall not apply to any person who is sentenced for a criminal act committed prior to the effective date of this act." The reasoning being that the Supreme Court has said that if a criminal statute is amended by mitigating the punishment, after the commission of the act but before the final judgment, the punishment is that provided by the amendment, unless the Legislature has specifically held otherwise. And that's what I'm doing is having the Legislature specify otherwise. Because after the sentence has been given, the judge has taken into consideration, most likely, the good time that will be provided in that particular sentence. And what my amendment does is say, let's not change the rules in the middle of the game. So if this amendment passes, anyone who is currently in the system, having been sentenced, but before appeals or whatever else they can do, they will still be subject to the old good-time rules. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Debate on the Hudkins amendment, Senator Pedersen. Senator Pedersen, I assume your light is on to speak on the bill. Senator Lindsay, on the