

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then discuss the bill on its merits.

SPEAKER WITHEM: No further lights on the amendment, Senator Witek, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I hope you will adopt this amendment. I don't believe it's unconstitutional. I don't believe there is a constitutional right to good time, not to my knowledge. I don't think it will be a burden on a sentencing judge to just decide, at the time of the sentence, that the individual will not have his sentence reduced by good time. I don't think that's very hard to do. It will take less than a minute to say. It will take less than a minute to record, and it will be part of the sentence, as far as I know, that's exactly how the procedure would work. So there is no reason to think it would be a burden on the judge. There is no reason to think it's not constitutional. There's no good time in the Constitution. This isn't for the individual being sentenced and this isn't for Senator Chambers or Senator Lindsay, this is for the people who are in the communities where they're trying to raise their families, where they are sick and tired of people going to prison for a matter of a couple days after they've beaten their spouse or for the matter of a couple weeks after their second or third DWI. This is for those people who pay to have those individuals incarcerated, who pay our salaries, who pay the salaries of all the people who run these operations. This is for those people because the first, to me, the first thing that government should do is protect its citizens. We serve those people. We protect those people and that's what this is, letting people out in half the time is not protecting those individuals. I'm saying let the judge decide if it's a second or third offense, if it's particularly a violent offense, which there are violent offenses in jails, people who have committed violent offense in jails, let him decide or her decide what that individual will receive as far as good time or no good time. And I would hope that you would advance this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the Witek amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: I would like a call of the house; call-in votes