

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments. (Chambers amendment, AM2349, may be found on page 2343 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a copy of this amendment is coming around. Because it's drafted as an amendment to the committee amendment it may not be decipherable unless you take a lot of time to go through it and match everything in it to the committee amendment and the green bill. But it was drafted by the bill drafter, and I assure you that the purpose of it is to do what I've been talking about already. It would equalize the treatment of these two forms of the same drug, but it would do it in the way contrary, or the opposite of what is in the current committee amendment. It would restore the committee amendment to the form that a majority of the committee had determined to put there. In trying to get another vote to bring the bill out to the floor, it became necessary to adopt the approach that is currently in the committee amendments. I hope what you will do is look at the policy involved. Nobody, inclu...let me ask Senator Abboud a question.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Abboud, would you respond.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Abboud, I don't want to make a presumption, because I know this is an area in which you offered legislation from time to time. When was the last time, if ever, that you offered legislation to increase the penalty on powder cocaine?

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, when the bill was originally enacted, back in '89. I believe it was '89, I don't know...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...Senator Lindsay said '89, but that's when the bill was enacted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But...I meant with reference to powder cocaine. That's when the crack part was added, isn't that true?

SENATOR ABOUD: No, they both were, they were both added at that time.