

SENATOR HALL: I do not believe it is. I believe that that is just a simple majority for similar types of reasons because they are issues, as Senator Withem explained, that are outside the control of the local body. They have been basically passed on by the federal government. We have to comply. This is a ruling out of the CIR. We have to comply at the local level so it's a, I think, a majority of that governing body, but all involve I believe public hearings in which to take those votes.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Before the next speaker, I'd like to call the Legislature's attention to a guest we have this afternoon, Ron Hoffman of Lincoln is under the north balcony. He's from the 29th District which happens to be my district. Ron, would you like to stand up and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Will, on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in support of the Hall amendment. I think it has been thoroughly explained and I think the questions have been good. Certainly, I think we don't want to put ourselves in a box by putting a political subdivision in a position where it can't comply with a judgment, a ruling and I think that the safeguards in this amendment with respect to the hearings are certainly adequate to inform the public as far as what is being contemplated by this amendment, should we adopt it. I would certainly support it and I would yield to Senator McKenzie at this point.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator McKenzie, you have about four and a half minutes.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I, too, will be supporting the Hall amendment and based primarily on the fact that I believe if we look at what we have allowed for schools in terms of CIR rulings that it again makes sense for municipalities and counties to be allowed the same exemption from within the lid. I realize the issue of potential for encouraging that kind of litigation, although...or CIR controversies. However, I also believe that political subdivisions don't like to find themselves in that situation