

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, and, Madam President, I want to say this before I start. I mean nothing that I say to be disrespectful towards you or your ruling, but I'm going to have some words for my colleagues. This is in house, so you're out of this, and I hope you understand that and everybody else does, and even if they don't, I hope you do. Members of the Legislature, we're now interpreting our rules. And what I always say is I need to know what the rules are that we're playing by. The Chair, nor any other person can show us where a rule, by declaring how many votes it does...it takes to do something, means automatically that the question cannot be divided. An amendment is different from a division. All the division does is to separate the two parts, because that's all we're dealing with this time. If I try to amend it, that means I might try to get you to change the amount of either one of these items. I'm not trying to get you to change the amount. All I'm trying to do is to get you to vote to separate these two items. We are setting a precedent by what we do here today. You might feel that Curtis is so important that our rules can go out the window and an artificial reading can be given. There is nothing whatsoever in any part of the rules which states that a question, which is divisible, cannot be divided. What the Chair relied on has nothing to do with dividing the question, it has to do with amending it. And I will show you by an example what I mean. When we were dealing with the crime bill and we had an amendment pending, you cannot amend an amendment to an amendment. So the only way I would be able to get at the individual parts is to divide that amendment. Then we'd take each section by itself. That is not amending it, because I can't do that, it's just taking it into the component parts, then we deal with each item on its own. And that's what I'm saying should be the case here, because we have only one rule, one rule that relates to dividing the question, and that rule says, in effect, that the question can be divided as long as each of the parts can stand on its own. That's what our rules...that's what you all's rules say, by the way, I voted against it. That's the rule you all adopted. Nobody can show us anywhere in the rule book where it says the question which is divisible can be divided, except, there are no exceptions, none whatsoever. The only exception that we see and what the Chair relied on is how many votes it takes to amend an override motion, that's all. It talks about amending. I'm not trying to change it. If, after dividing the question, I would then try to change the amount in either one of those figures, that would require 30 votes because I'm trying to make a change by way of