

June 8, 1995

SENATOR HALL: Okay, then we'll move to Item 7.

CLERK: Item 7, a motion from Senator Withem. I believe copies have been distributed, Mr. President. It would move to suspend pertinent rules and vote on...or consider the bills on Final Reading scheduled for today without further amendment or motion.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Withem, you are recognized to open on your motion.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, this is a motion that I'm putting to the body to allow the body to make a decision about how we proceed with the rest of the afternoon and potentially evening today. We have a number of bills here on Final Reading. These bills will either pass today or they won't. That's a pretty strong prediction, I know, going out on...going out on a limb there. But, seriously, that's where we are today. These bills will either pass or they won't. The motion that you have filed is an alternative to the traditional motion that is filed. It does include the ability to read bills that have not had the two-day layover needed by our rules; that's a traditional motion. In addition to that, we are suspending the rules that allow for amendments and motions. The intention of this motion, if adopted, would be then that none of these bills on Final Reading would consider amendments or...amendments or motions on those particular motions...on those bills. It would, however, allow debate to take place. This is not a cloture type of motion that would allow...cut off debate entirely but it would mean that the debate would be manageable, that we would give members an opportunity to speak as to why they think bills ought to pass or not pass and people can obviously yield time to other members if they want to speak. It's not an attempt to stifle debate entirely. It is, however, a motion designed to limit motions and amendments that could conceivably lead to...protract the debate and none of those motions or none of those amendments would be in a position to be adopted today anyway. If a member sees a grievous problem with a bill, convinces members that it's not a good bill, simply the members should vote not to pass it. If they want to revive it, they can come back in on the first day of next session and reconsider it at that point. So, procedurally, it doesn't make much difference other than it prohibits the ability to file endless motions and endless amendments. I would point out that when I asked help in going through the rules to draft this amendment, I did want to make sure that we did not suspend the rule that prohibits debate on