

who are working LB 507, who want to see this motion passed, who want to see LB 5...or 371 pass now, without further debate, without further amendment, and I do have an amendment pending on 371 and I am the first amendment up and it would directly address the concern with LB 507, putting language that I believe would make the bill comply with LB 507 which I think would keep it out of a courtroom situation as soon as it passes, and I would like to see that done. And, yes, it will delay LB 371, the crime bill, till January, but it doesn't start till September so it would just be a couple months and it's worth it to me to put out something that isn't immediately dragged into court. So the reason I would vote against the motion to suspend the rules is I want to see this change done. I don't want to see 371 passed as it is and taken into court. I know the Governor's office wants to see it done regardless of whether it's constitutional or not, in anyone's opinion. It's almost like, no matter what, we're going to pass this bill even though we know that there's problems with it and we'll take it into court right away. Why should we do that kind of work product in this body? Why should we go ahead and pass something that's going into court right away when that amount of time can be used? That same amount of time, probably less amount of time can be used to take that bill, put it in good shape, have it comply with 507 and then go ahead early next year and pass a real solid crime bill instead of going ahead quickly today and just passing something just so that they can go tell everybody out there that they passed a crime bill. I've been very supportive of this bill. It's been something I've worked on the three years that I've been here. I know other senators have worked for years on this kind of legislation. I don't think we'll get anything like it out of the Judiciary Committee again. They've killed nearly everything all of us...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...have brought into the committee this year. I don't think we'll ever get another opportunity and I'm not willing to take all of that hard work and all of that time that we have put into that bill and throw it into a court. So I do want the opportunity to amend LB 371, and I am the first amendment up on that, so regardless of how much time we take, if we have to go to cloture, I'm willing to spend it. If we have to vote to extend the session, I'm willing to do so. I have an opinion on that too. We have to take a vote that 40 of us can vote to extend the session, and I'm willing to do those things