

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: If we can't get that in two or three years, then we should abolish this commission.

SPEAKER WITHEM: No further lights on. Senator Witek, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I would like a call of the house and a machine vote.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question is, shall the house go under call? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The house is under call. Senator Witek, you have a choice of beginning to your closing or waiting till everyone's here. You've used 30 seconds of your closing time.

SENATOR WITEK: (Microphone not activated immediately.) ...in close. I know it's almost lunchtime and got to kind of ease into these things gently. What my amendment would do is would strike reference to the NEOC from statute and do away with the commission completely. As I read more about this issue, talked to people about this issue, understood I think better about this issue, I realized what a political game was being played at this time, what I believe was a political game being played at this time, and the really raw potential there of this commission in the political arena and, and as a business advocate, potential damage to the business community beyond what's really there now if it's drawn into the political arena and used, abused, I should say, politically for information, for starting up of investigations to tie people's time up, things of that nature that could happen. And I, I can't go along with it. I can't go along with this bill. I can't go along with this committee amendment, which is even worse than the bill because it goes ahead, it...the Governor's going to be able to appoint an entirely new commission, he can appoint all state employees on the commission if he wants, so you can't tell me that he doesn't have some control over that commission if he does something like that. And you can't tell me they're going to operate autonomously when, when they're state employees and they know