

January 8, 1996

they could do the time-honored custom in here of simply offering any number of amendments to the bill to have that bill brought back from Final Reading to Select File for a specific amendment, and in all probability would be able to get that additional day delay anyway. So I don't think we're doing away, we're not putting in a provision here where you're going to see the Legislature rushing to judgment on radically new proposals, complicated proposals, controversial proposals. What we're simply doing here, I think, is giving the Legislature the ability in those cases where it is either a defined emergency or at the end of a session the ability to do its business slightly more expeditiously than, than it has in the past.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Seeing no further lights, Senator Will to close.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. Just to kind of summarize the reasoning behind this rule change, I think it's been explained quite well, but our constitution requires only a one-day layover on Final Reading prior to a vote. The rule currently specifies two days. Senator Chambers is correct in his constitutional analysis that we are allowed to put greater restrictions on ourselves than the constitution requires. However, for the reasons that have, that have been laid out, I think it's wise to change the rule from two to one legislative day consistent with the constitution. And basically the reasons are that the rule rarely comes into play. When it does, it simply is to suspend it. And I think that any concerns there are about a bill needing an additional 24 hours to lay over so people know what is in it are probably not groundless, but without much ground because I think on any important measure or controversial measure in particular I think not only the airing that it gets on this floor is very thorough, but also the treatment in modern times that it gets in the press is also extremely thorough. And I think on, with very few exceptions, when we are voting on major proposals, they've been laid out in front of us repeatedly and in front of the public repeatedly and I think that the one-day rule is, is certainly a reasonable way to go. I would urge your support for this rules change.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. The question before the body is the adoption of the third proposed rule change. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Senator