

January 9, 1996

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, Senator Will, I appreciate that, that was perfect. So, that is exactly what this rule change would do. It is not controversial, it is helpful to the staff or senators who are watching the Journal trying to keep up with the different amendments that are introduced. Right now under the current rules of the legislature amendments don't necessarily have to be printed in the Journal. I'm sure you realize that as you go up there and they ask whether you want it printed or not. And when a bill is considered sometimes the amendment is announced and especially during the hectic times during the session some people were not aware that there was an amendment and in some instances very comprehensive and difficult to catch up very quickly on it. So, the nonprinted amendment could have been filed a long time before and yet we had no awareness of it until it hit the floor. Even if you read the Journal daily and try to keep up on it, or checking, even on our computers, even if you check through the computers you still don't see that amendment. So, you had no way to know unless you talked to the introducer of the amendment and they discussed it with you unless you are continually going to the Clerk's Office and asking in their office or go up and talk with the individual who has the amendment. Though some people interpret this as like an unfair notice or a purposeful way to get an amendment through. I don't think that is the case. I think it is just, you know, the Journal is already a very large piece of equipment here on our desks and also, especially when we are introducing a lot of bills like this, you know, there is a lot going in there. You don't read every page. So, I think it is just kind of expedience that has caused most of this to occur. But I would find it very helpful and my staff has brought it to my attention, would find it very helpful if all amendments that were proposed prior to the day that the bill was on the agenda that they would be in the daily Journal and they don't have to be written in their entirety, if they are a comprehensive amendment they can just be noted that they are filed in the Clerk's Office so that we know that there is an amendment and that there is someplace where we can go to get the amendment. This will not effect, this will not effect floor amendments. I want people to realize that. This has nothing to do with an amendment that you propose from the floor or even an amendment that you propose that day. It is just anything that you filed earlier, it would be noted so that we would know that it exists and be able to look at it. It is a very simple change, I think