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on something that is a significant change on the rules to limit it to five bills initially. So with that, I think I've given you the background on the proposal we're talking about. I would encourage you to support the Maurstad amendment particularly if that would make it easier for you to support the proposal as a whole. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Maurstad, before we go on, would you like to bring us up to date on your amendment?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I think the chairman of the Rules Committee has outlined it fairly well, and I think before we left this issue prior to noon yesterday we had a fairly lengthy discussion on this particular amendment given that it's fairly simple in character. The intent once again, my intent is to try to support this rule change as we proceed through so it's not...the intent behind reducing the number from ten to five is not to try to squash the rule change in any way but try to maybe ease us into the transition of providing the Speaker the additional authority. So with that, I would obviously answer any questions; but I think it really boils down to this particular amendment as to how fast we want to move in this direction if in fact this rule change is adopted.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Before beginning the debate, I'd like to make a really special announcement. Senator Jim Jones is the proud grandfather of his twelfth grandchild, Zachery Aaron Jones, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, 20.5 inches long, born last night at 11:30 p.m. Congratulations, Jim. Senator Brown on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President and members of the body, I support both the rule change and the Maurstad amendment. It is my understanding that the rule that we are talking about really is under...allowed under our current rules. Our current rules say that the Speaker, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall report to the Legislature the order in which bills and resolutions shall be considered on General File. So we already have the ability but what we don't have is a clearly understood process that is also commonly understood. If we were changing substantively the way that we do business, I might have some concerns. But I've spent time with members of other states and I've seen the way that they do business in a partisan