

January 11, 1996

lot of fights, it makes sense. I don't anticipate the amendment to pass however.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This amendment does not make sense. This amendment would require a unanimous vote of the Executive Board in order to approve a major proposal as designated by the Speaker of the Legislature. Frankly, that...and the meaning of that would be that any one member of the Executive Board could stop the designation of a major proposal. If, in fact, a member of the Executive Board disagreed with the idea of major proposals in general, that one member could stop the designation of all major proposals in a given legislative session. I think that the current system that is in place, if the rule were adopted requiring a majority vote of the Executive Board, is realistic. It doesn't pass the bill, it doesn't put it on consent calendar, it just allows its designation as a major proposal. And, in fact, if you think about the types of things that probably would be designated as major proposals, they're probably going to be controversial bills. They're going to be things like the crime bill, like the welfare bill, like Micron, like things...things that are going to draw opposition. And the odds that there is not a member of the Executive Board that would vote against one of those are great, frankly. If you would adopt this amendment, in effect I think, you are nullifying the effect of this rule change. This rule change would be meaningless at that point if you're giving.... I mean, we have talked and talked about giving one man or one woman the...whoever is the Speaker, the power to designate a major proposal, and we've mitigated that by requiring the approval of the Executive Board. In effect, though, what we would be doing in adopting this amendment is giving one person on the Executive Board the power to veto that. And that is not the way that a rule change such as this ought to be structured. If you like the idea of this rule change, you ought to keep intact the current structure where the Executive Board, as a whole, would decide by vote, by a majority vote. If the Executive Board, as a whole, agrees, then the major proposal ought to be allowed to be designated. To allow one member to veto it would, as I said, nullify the impact of this proposal. We might as well not adopt it at all if you're in favor of this amendment. Thank you.