

February 1, 1996 LE 964

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I want to see this bill work, and I think Senator Cudaback is interested in looking at a series of amendments and cleanup kinds of things. And in that light, I think I will withdraw the amendment and work with whoever is interested in it between now and Select File. I think in saying that the only thing that I think is really critical is working with the process whereby the secrecy of the vote is maintained. We just checked with Oregon and they have a double envelope process, whereby the name on the outside envelope is verified, then the inside envelope is removed and the ballot opened actually by somebody else. And I think maybe, if that's not too cumbersome a process, that might be a good little thing to add in to maintain the secrecy and preclude any possible constitutional challenge on that ground. But, with that, I'd withdraw the amendment, Mr. Clerk.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Question before the body now ther is the advancement of LB 964 to E & R Initial. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I feel kind of at...you know, it's not often I'm out...actually maybe I should say it's more often that I just haven't been aware, that I've been out snookered by Senator Cudaback. Boy, he sure has done it today. And it makes me think that I've been out snookered all the time and just didn't know it. So I appreciate that, Jim, because Senator Cudaback had talked, not too long ago, about bracketing the bill so we could get some other things worked out, if I would withdraw the motion to indefinitely postpone. I did do that. And part of the discussion also was that I wanted to have more discussion on the bill. And if I remember right, the discussion went, and I probably am wrong, but the discussion went something to the tune of we've got two other amendments, we'll probably take the rest of the morning on those anyway, and that will give us the time we need to work out. I wasn't aware that the amendment was going to be withdrawn, and now here we are on advancing of...advancing the bill, which I don't particularly...didn't want to do. I guess if I would have known we were going to do this I would have stuck with my indefinitely postpone motion.