

rules changes where we said we have to uphold what committees are doing, we have to give more strength to our committee structure, our committee system. And there was a concern about bypassing committees with motions to amend, motions to amend on bills that have been killed by a committee. Several of you supported...I shouldn't say several, a majority of you supported adding on that amendment that says you need 30 votes to amend into another bill a bill which has been already killed. It's clear, I think, that that is a consistent position on the part of the Legislature, that we've consistently said if a committee takes action and kills a bill, that we should require that it have 30 votes. That is kind of the issue that we're at now, and that is certainly it's going to impact how many votes it takes to bring the bill out of committee. But more importantly is the question of, when does the committee no longer have the ability to act? And remember, this is a two-edged sword, this is a two-edged sword. If...there is nothing in the rules that says once this motion is filed the committee cannot kill a bill, or cannot advance a bill, or cannot advance a bill with amendments. So if we read that into it, what we are saying is, once that motion is filed the committee can no longer act. If the committee can no longer act, that doesn't just mean killing a bill, that means advancing a bill. The committee simply does not have the ability to act anymore that we've moved that over to the floor. I don't think that's what the intent of subsection...or Section 19 is. I think Rule 3, Section 19, the intent is, hey committee, act, because if you act, then I can do something. And I think that's what occurred here. The motion was filed, the committee acted. Some action took place. And that is...I think that is what the thrust of the bill is. I would also suggest that when we talk about a bill, we're not talking about something that is...that has no physical presence to it. We have to remember when we talk about bills, technically what we are talking about is the blue-backed bill that sits up at the Clerk's desk, that is what we are voting on. What Section 19 says is the body is going to order the chairperson of that committee who has physical possession of the bill, and the chairs of the committees have physical possession of the bills that are referenced to them. If this body orders chairperson of the Judiciary Committee to transfer physical possession of that bill to the Clerk for placement on General File, I cannot comply because I don't have physical possession of that bill. That has already been transferred to the Clerk, the Clerk has possession, and it's been placed as indefinitely