

to pull that bill from the committee. I was not aware that you could do that. My first year in the Legislature, getting used to the rules, I'm sure most of you will understand. And I asked, during the committee, well if that's the case...I was angry at the time because I felt we were putting a lot of time in, my staff was putting a lot of time into the bill, we were agreeing to work on the bill, then the bill was going to go out without our amendments on it or any other action on the bill. And I was told that we...and I said we should just kill the bill then; if we can't all work together, the bill should be killed. And I was told at that time, and it's only my word because I don't have anyone...I mean anyone else in the committee can say so. I was told we can't kill the bill because the motion had already been made. And Senator Withem went ahead and made that motion to pull on the floor of the Legislature, and words were exchanged, and it was a heated debate between myself and Senator Withem, who agreed, at some point, to pull his motion to pull the bill from the committee and allow the committee to continue to work on that. Why do we have the 20-day rule at all if we're not going to say that...I mean then make it 30 votes to pull a bill from committee. I think the 20-day rule was to allow the committee 20 days to take an action on the bill and if, after that 20 days, no action was taken, then allow a senator, in this case the senator's priority bill, to pull that bill from committee, which she did. She followed these rules to the letter, she followed it to the letter. And now, after the fact, we have individuals who are making rulings, saying that we have to have 30 votes now to pull that bill from committee, because the committee then, after...after Senator Stuhr filed the motion to pull from committee, killed the bill. And I was...Senator Pedersen and I were talking when Senator Lindsay got the Judiciary Committee together the other morning, off the floor of the Legislature, so it wasn't even at a regular...as I understand it, regular meeting. And maybe that can be clarified later on in the discussion. But my point is this, you have senators here who are learning the rules, myself included, and take years to do so, which is why Senator Chambers' comments disappoints me so deeply, because we...when I first came here I believed that the law stood exactly as it was, and was a law-upholding citizen, and that if the law said one thing, that's what I did, and if you break that law, you break it. And I feel the same way about the rules. It's not something fluid that can be changed. It's not like we're a bunch of kids playing a game to change the rules to win the game