

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robak, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROBAK: Would you repeat what the Clerk said to me and explain that to the body, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I, yeah, I would repeat my interpretation of Senator Hall's motion is that he is moving that the Speaker's agenda be overridden, which would then allow this motion to be debated under normal debate rules as opposed to under the strict time limitations. Senator Hall, is that a correct interpretation of your motion?

SENATOR HALL: That is correct, if I might open on the motion when appropriate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Hearing no objections to considering this motion somewhat out of its order, Senator Hall, on your motion. And then I would also ask the body's indulgence for me to address the motion from the Chair because it is my agenda that's being overridden. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. It is reluctantly that I offer this motion, but I don't feel that I have any other option. There are approximately six minutes left on this proposal. I would be willing to withdraw my amendment, take a straight up or down vote on this proposal, but I don't have any commitments from the other two introducers of amendments that deal with this issue. So I have no choice. This proposal has had approximately, right now, 40...well, I guess 48 minutes of debate, 49 for purposes of addressing this issue. It is a substantive issue. It is not a consent calendar bill, Senator Wesely, I would not disagree with you there. But in order to have it up, because of the way that we have had to deal with things this session, had no choice but to take an issue that is controversial in nature, not only the amendment, but the substantive underlying constitutional amendment, and make it a consent calendar proposal. The square peg does not fit in the round hole. The issue is one that we have to deal with. I do not disregard the difficult job that the Speaker finds himself in. I appreciate the fact that he has done everything possible to address the needs of the body in this way, but I feel somewhat, I guess, cheated out of the opportunity, as I know many others do, when you have difficult issues that are before the body, but don't get the same amount of attention, especially when this was designated a priority