

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Do I see five hands? Question before the body is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate is ceased. Senator Chambers, to close on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Withem, who had offered the proposal in the first place about the summary, has agreed to this amendment. It is an issue which we could consider in the context of our rules, and I'm saying that I would be opposed to it then, but it would be better to debate it in that context than having it put in the constitution. I will repeat what I said earlier, because some of you may not have been here. If we say there shall be a summary, then we are required to have that summary on every bill that is not read. If it becomes a contentious enough issue and we know that the constitution has required us to write a summary and we think that the debate is going to be extended in arguing about whether this summary adequately describes what's in the bill, we could spend more time arguing about the summary than reading the bill. So this could be a self-defeating proposition that might put us in a position of having to read every bill to avoid an extended discussion on the summary. If it's in the constitution, we would have to have a summary out there. And we could reach a point of saying, and experience teaches us this, rather than have this long debate, and we don't want to read the bill, the summary of this bill is going to be a restatement of the bill itself. And that way nobody can say a spin is being put on it. So, in that case, you would have a restatement of the bill, but that would not have to be read. But the amount of time taken to reprint the whole bill for all of the senators could become a confusing exercise. I can see Senator Hudkins kind of with a questioning look on her face now, and that's what would happen if we don't strike this language. So I hope that you will vote to strike it. And I'm not sure how many are in the Chamber, so, Madam President, I'm going to start with a machine vote. And if the votes are slow coming up, I will go ahead and ask for a call of the house. I won't shilly-shally.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. No shilly-shallying. (Laugh.) The question before the body is the