

This particular discussion certainly does not relate to the merits of the bill or the demerits of the bill, depending on where your positions are, but whether we want to continue what has creeping into becoming an established process on the floor of the Legislature. In regard to constitutional amendments relative to amending our State Constitution, by rules...by rule suspension, it is conceptually possible to introduce or to bring to the floor of the Legislature by resolution a constitutional amendment, and then suspend all the rules and pass it on the final day of the legislative session. And the only thing I'll mention about content is that this is the political most important time to bring this bill to the rule suspension process, but I would ask you, if there were a constitutional amendment, for an example, that changed property taxes or proposed a constitutional amendment that did that, as some of the other ones that are circulating now in the petition method, how would you feel about the rule suspension? If it was a constitutional amendment that would prohibit or require abortion in the State of Nebraska, how would you feel about supporting a rule suspension motion? And I think it is important to mention things like that simply to put this in perspective and try to divorce ourselves a little bit from the content of the bill. If we have of our own accord declared that bills are to be treated, or this type of resolutions are to be treated as bills, then I think it is probably more appropriate that we continue to treat a constitutional amendment resolution as a bill throughout the system and not avail ourselves of the rule suspension mechanism that is, quite frankly, agreeable...available to us. I don't disagree with Senator Kristensen's bringing this motion because it is an appropriate motion to be, but is the acceptance of the rule suspension this afternoon, on the final day of the session, an acceptable means of procedure for us to use, and I would, again, indicate my opposition to the process that we are using. Yes, it has been used in the past. Yes, as sometimes happens with the process of suspending rules, conceptually we could get into some really interesting situations in future years if this becomes an established practice on the last day of the legislative session. So with that, Madam President, I would ask you not to suspend the rules at this time for the passage of this bill because we do in our rules require these issues to have the importance of bills, and then at all at once on Final Reading, we are going to say, oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, they do not have to be. If that's all this rule means, then I would suggest that the Rules...