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SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Discussion on LB 103. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, here we are again. You know, I'm almost reluctant to stand up here and debate this again, because it's just...for most of you it's going to be the same old story one more time. But I have to tell you, I believe in this so strongly that I have to make the effort again this year to make certain that every member of this body understands the issue before the vote is taken. Senator Kristensen is right, we did, in fact, I did introduce the bill originally in 1990 which would change the electoral college system. In 1991 it was passed by the Legislature, and I might add, by a very close vote. I think that it had 25 votes on each round of debate, so it was a hotly contested issue. And during the course of the debate, we didn't just debate it on first round of debate, we debated it on first round, we debated it on second round, and I think we even debated it on final round. And the same thing happened again in 1993 and in 1995 when Senator Kristensen introduced basically this same bill to do away with that electoral college. The electoral colleges had a lot of discussion over the years, and a lot of people would like to see the electoral college abolished. There's actually nothing in the Constitution of the United States that provides for an electoral college; its sort of grown up by custom and by circumstance. And our own statutes have provided the method, says the Legislature can provide the method by which electors are chosen. And I don't know how many of you realize it, but each political party, who is a recognized party and has a candidate, chooses, at its convention in the summertime, the five electors which actually cast the electoral votes. And so in each state that's the way it happens. Incidentally, if any of you have not read Jeff Greenfield's novel on the electoral college, it makes very interesting reading and shows you all the possibilities of what can go wrong with the electoral college and with the electoral vote. Senator Kristensen has repeatedly made the argument on the floor that there...that this particular bill, that we passed in 1991, makes us different and is embarrassing. And I would say quite the opposite. In fact, if we wanted to take that argument to its logical conclusion, then perhaps I should offer an amendment to this bill that would do away with the unicameral system. That makes us different. You