

March 7, 1979

and I'll let him do the major presentation. This is a change in the limitation on the number of bills that Senators can introduce for the short session, so I want the people to kind of pay attention. This is substantive. This is not just a little clarification language. It is a change from an existing rule to reduce the number of bills that can be introduced in the short session. So, I'll let Senator Beutler present it. It's on Page 158 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, let me...let me restate briefly what the rule is. It essentially says that during the short session, during next year's session, for example, the number of bills that will be allowed to be introduced by an individual senator will be reduced from ten to six. This idea is not particularly original, as you know, but the need for it was emphasized to me in my campaign by the number of people in my district who feel very strongly that we're trying to do too much too fast with too many bills in the Legislature. The...my experience in the short time that I have been in the Legislature so far would lead me to agree with the people of my district, but the basic reason why I'm introducing this bill, or I should say, I'm not basing it on my experience, because my experience is simply too short, but I would hope to base it simply on logic and on the judgment that you have made as a Legislature previously, and what I mean by that is simply this. You have determined that in the long session, in the 90 day session, that the appropriate number of bills to be introduced by an individual senator is ten. The short session is 60 days, a shorter period of time. It would seem that logically if ten is appropriate for a 90 day session, then six is appropriate in your own judgment, for a 60 day session, and I might add that I really don't think that six goes far enough in the sense that you have to realize, as I'm sure you all do, that there are a number of bills being held over for the short session, so that you really have an additional influx of bills, and so it's not a straight proportion question, even though I've reduced it only to six in the amendment. Obviously, this is not a complete solution to what I perceive to be a problem. Obviously, we have to deal eventually, and I understand that Senator Carsten's trying to do that, for one, is the question of the introduction of bills by the Committees. This amendment, I consider simply preliminary...a preliminary amendment to addressing the problem in a manner in which we can get a final solution to it. So I would ask your support in this small amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers, then