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upcoming session. After the first day and after the organization of committees, the Committee on Committees will no longer have activity since we changed the rules last year to give appointment to review powers to the standing committees, and so consequently the combination of the Rules Committee with the Committee on Committees will provide for another strong organizational committee that will operate throughout the year. It does a couple of things. The old Committee on Committees was a twelve-member committee. This would be a ten-member committee. It was a thirteen-member committee and this would be a ten-member committee based on the three congressional districts, three members from each, and that makes the committee a little more workable than it has been in the past. It also does away and abolishes the Rules Committee so the unfortunate and negative aspect of this might be that we will not have one more chairmanship to pass around. On the other hand, maybe we have too many at this time and so I leave that for your decisions. I think that this is a reasonable revamping of the committee structure. It combines two committees whose powers are not terribly exciting right now and gives them some reasonable amount of work and reasonable work load. It will be much more representative of the body as a whole than the old five-member committee, and for that reason we offer this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: As Senator Newell indicated, this was submitted with the endorsement of the Rules Committee as an alternative to the proposal before you, and as he says it is somewhat unprecedented, I guess, to a committee to volunteer to abolish itself and to transfer its powers over to another committee. The reason that we talked about this came in a discussion about the proliferation of committees in this Legislature, the so-called select and special committees, and the fact that that seems to make it difficult to sometimes get quorums at committee meetings the fact that lunchtimes then have to become the time to schedule meetings and, in fact, we may not just have morning sessions and a full afternoon of committee meetings, we may start having a committee meeting every noon hour for one committee or another, and therefore we felt that to make the first step in terms of consolidation we would offer to abolish ourselves and let the Committee on Committees which as Senator Newell indicated with the rule change last year will not have as large a work load, to let that committee consider the questions of rules. We also felt that the concept of having two different caucus systems, a four-district