

fiscally conservative thing to do. For that reason I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments, otherwise you are back to the green copy of the bill and the green copy has some pretty healthy salary increases.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. We are back to the bill. Senator Warner, would you like a general explanation of it now, then we have a motion following your explanation, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again in discussing the committee amendment, just to repeat one more time, from my point of view the salaries, as contained now in the committee amendment are commensurate with what responsibilities of those offices have. Number two, it is a more gradual increase, but eventually gets to about the same level as the bill originally proposed. I think that is better. Thirdly, those positions would have been adjusted, since 1979, the same as state employees, generally. The pay proposed for January 1, 1987 would virtually already have been reached, but because of the Constitution those adjustment, of course, did not take place. Finally, in my opinion the level of salary ought to be one which permits a great many people at least the opportunity to consider running for these offices, where if the salaries are at the level they are now, and I understand we can say the salary looks big to a lot of people who earn less, but there also are a lot of costs that public office has that is not reimbursed. I think...plus you have to understand there is no security to public employment. You're going to take four years out of your life or eight years or whatever period of time to serve and then you may be out and be looking for some other work. So I think the levels proposed are reasonable and I would hope that we could dispose of any other amendments that are proposed and then I'll repeat, I do not intend to take a vote to advance the bill on General File until the A bill is up there with it and it would be treated the same as other bills that have been held on General File for the same reason.