

March 28, 1985

LB 660
LR 4

indefinitely postponed; 660 indefinitely postponed. All signed by Senator Vickers as Chair. (See pages 1236-38 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Warner moves that LR 4 be placed on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. The motion is found on page 1146 of the Journal, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Jerome Warner and may we have order in the Chamber so we can hear the speaker, please. (Gavel.) Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't intend to take up a lot of time. LR 4 is a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment for biennial sessions. We had an extensive discussion the other day. Senator DeCamp was proposing to attach the resolution and I felt from listening to the discussion that perhaps there was interest in the concept and that the real issue seemed to be whether it should be attached to another particular bill. If you would decide to raise the bill...or raise the resolution, I wouldn't intend to take it up this year. Obviously, there is plenty of time to do it next session. It is my impression that some of those who voted to kill it in committee were concerned because it did not have a time limit on it and that certainly is something that could be considered. But, primarily, I think annual sessions have two or three things that would be a distinct advantage over what we have now. With annual sessions we potentially are changing or have the potential to change state policy every eight months. It seems to me it is very seldom that the policies need to be changed that frequently. Secondly, it seems to me with biennial sessions we could find, as I recall when the...the way they were, that we would find the interim studies could be of a much more in depth study than what time sometimes allows now. A lot of the problems or a lot of the time it takes when the Legislature meets probably could be avoided or at least certainly the time could be reduced. And, finally, I also strongly believe that the biennial sessions would provide an opportunity for a lot more people to consider running or serving in the Legislature than is the case with annual sessions because of the time that annual sessions take. We all understand that we are lay people. I think the Legislature should be composed of lay citizens. I think it