

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands, please? Yes, I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. You are voting on ceasing debate. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate is ceased. Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, first to respond to the position taken by Senator Chambers. You know it's always a question, when you are in this body, and you know a bill is bad, and you also know it is going to pass, as to whether or not you want to try to make it better knowing it will probably help make it pass, or whether you want to leave it bad thinking that that might keep it from passing. All of us have those debates within ourselves, occasionally, and Senator Chambers has decided to leave it as bad as possible, which is probably...maybe not a bad thing to do. By the same token, though, I've stood here in the past and watched things go across that I thought were bad and took the position to not take it out, hoping that maybe it might not pass, then it does pass and winds up in the statutes. Yes, we could probably stand back and say well, we told you so, later on, but nevertheless we are all held collectively responsible. So I've got to do what I can, even though I think the total bill is wrong, to try to make it make as much sense as possible before it is put in the statutes, because I believe it will be. Now the point made by Senator Hefner, that the language that I'm attempting to strike from 288 is very similar and was lifted from the current statutes as they deal with shoplifters, put there at the request of the Retail Merchants Association, I can understand why that is in there, because those folks did the same thing to a previous legislature that the librarians are doing to us today. It is very difficult, as I said earlier, to vote against your librarians calling you from back home. Well, it's even more difficult to vote against your retail merchants, when they start calling you from back home. But that doesn't make it any less stupid. Just because this body, at some point in time in the past, made a stupid mistake saying that a retail merchant can beat up somebody and not be held civilly liable for it, or that they can