

people time to sit back and react in a less emotional fashion to the bill than they might do right now. I see this as a relatively simple, noncontroversial amendment which I believe will facilitate a transition. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, I do not want to address the amendment, but I would like to arise for a point of personal privilege, if I may, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, state your point, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my understanding is, and correct me if I'm wrong, but we are on Final Reading.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is correct.

SENATOR CARSTEN: As I understand the rules when we are on Final Reading we are to be in our seats.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is correct.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Now I also understand when we return bills for specific amendments we then change our operations to some degree in discussing those amendments, and we begin to see movement around, which is normal, and so forth. But I think, and I would suggest, if I may, Mr. President, that the Chair would verbally give some degree of flexibility before we reach that point or as we reach that point so that we do not place the Sergeant-at-Arms or the Speaker or the President or the Clerk in an awkward position of trying to enforce our rules. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Carsten, you are correct. I have no authority to divert from the rules. Even though we are on Final Reading, and even though we divert from our usual procedure, the rule still says you are supposed to be in your seat. I cannot divert from that, unless you give me the authority. So the way I am ruling on that, Senator Carsten, is that we should stay in our seat as long as we are on Final Reading. I do not anticipate that it will be that long this morning but, regardless of the length of it, we should still stay in our seat. If we wish to leave, we should get excused from the Clerk, otherwise we should be at