

are...they are thereby confirmed. Members of the Legislature, we do have Final Reading next on the agenda. And I have...the Clerk and I have been requested, by Senator Haberman, to withdraw LB 122 from reading today. We proceed to LB 494.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have a motion on 494. Senator Withem would move to return LB 494 to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment is on page 1157 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, this is a bill we had some discussion on just a short time ago dealing with municipal regulation of natural gas rates. Apologize to the body for having to bring this back one more time, but what we have done is we have achieved some type of compromise arrangement between the regulators of natural gas rates, the cities, and the regulatees, the gas companies. Now what was the page again, Pat?

CLERK: The amendment, Senator, is on 1157.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, it is on 1157. I'm having prepared a handout to explain the specifics of the amendment. It is evidently not prepared yet. So if you'd look in the Journal on page 1157, if you are interested, basically, what this amendment does is it clarifies three things. Okay, the information has been prepared here, so it should be being distributed. It clarifies three things. First of all, what rates are we talking about regulating? Current law is somewhat unclear as to what rates are regulated. I know the original 494 clarified this particular point, and the amendments we have, I think, clarify it maybe just a touch better than the original amendment, and that is that municipalities only act on general rate increases, not purchased gas rates. In other words, they regulate the gas rates of the request when a company has of getting an increase in gas rates because of their overhead expenses, their cost of doing business. If they have to pay more money at the well head, for the natural gas, that becomes automatic. In most cities that was understood, but this clarifies that in the statute. The second thing and the key thing is current law states that the cities have only 90 days to make this determination. The cities came in,