

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Five.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So in other words, you can give the death penalty with four votes but to impeach it would take five?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: You're not changing that?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Question.

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

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

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Vard Johnson to close.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to apologize to you for taking more time on something than I know that you wanted to take time on, but I did take this off consent calendar a long time ago knowing that the deliberation would take more than 15 minutes, which it has tonight. Senator Lamb has noted that if we just vote this right now, why we're going to put this on the ballot. That's not correct. It will come up for a Final Reading vote. You'll have a chance to read the matter on Final Reading to reflect it. It does take 30 votes on Final Reading. This represents some fairly well thought through changes to the impeachment process that we have. It would...I hope we never have to use it again. I hope we never have to use it, but if the State Legislature of the year 2010 has to use it, at least it can reflect the best thoughts of the Legislature of 1986 and the voters of 1986. We need to learn from the last experience which was a 1984 experience and for that reason I would offer these changes and ask your support for LR 12 as amended by the committee amendments.