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LANewslink

### **They were going to do anything they could to kill this bill**

Legislative Ethics- They were going to do anything they could to kill this bill. When it appeared the House would agree on a third try, Speaker Joe Salter called on Rep. Charlie DeWitt, D-LeCompte, to address the House.

DeWitt has long held a reputation as a silver-tongue politician who can sway his peers.

"If you don't put locals in this, you have done yourselves an injustice," he said. "It's time for the chambers to grow up and admit that politics are politics."

The country humor of DeWitt, who said local officials "need to go to that lick log" and report like everyone else, stirred enough support (55-45) to recommit the bill to conference with less than an hour left in the legislative session.

The bill died before another conference committee report could be assembled.

(Sen. Robert) Adley said the way it ended showed "they were going to do anything they could to kill this bill, as has been done year in and year out when you deal with 'Glass Pockets.' "

"In the end, neither chamber had to cast a final vote on the bill," he said. "So everyone gets to claim that they voted for stronger ethics laws, but the shenanigans of the other chamber prevented the bill from passing."

(Ethics 1 leader Stephen) Moret said his group is not giving up and would bring the issue to the Legislature again next year.

The current law is "one of the primary things keeping Louisiana out of the top 10 in ethics laws," he said.

(Mike Hasten - News Star excerpt)