

Department of Administrative Services and the legislative fiscal office. It is three opinions, oftentimes three conflicting opinions and I think that that means that we recognize that people can differ on an issue and certainly that we want information but we want to get a variety. Now in this it is only going to be one opinion. It will be one fiscal analyst or two or whatever trying to call around and figure out what the business/consumer impact is and they will be commenting on the bills in front of Senator Maresh's Labor Committee. They will be commenting on the bills in front of Senator DeCamp's Banking Committee. They will be commenting on all sorts of bills coming from other committees trying to explain what their impact is. So I think that we have to look carefully before we write this into statute particularly those of us that are going to stay in the Legislature and be around after this bill is passed because I think we will see people standing up and pulling out these business/consumer impact statements and reading and saying that this bill is good or bad based on that, and then we, as Senators, have to argue with the legislative fiscal office about the merits of our own legislation. Now what my amendment says is that a sponsor of a bill can request this. If I want to know and if I want to get an opinion to present to you about the impact of my bill, I can request that. Now I am not saying that, in my amendment, the other thing my amendment does is strikes the language "under the direction of the Committee of Appropriations". Now I am not saying that the Appropriations Committee will try and influence these business/consumer impact statements, at least not the current Appropriations Committee. I wouldn't, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, try and direct the fiscal staff to come up with a certain business/consumer impact statement. Senator Warner, as Chairman, I know wouldn't do that. Not even Senator Goodrich would try and direct our fiscal office to shape one of these business/consumer impact statements so it's a certain direction. But I don't think that we can write this power into statute and trust future Appropriations Committee to have this sort of power over other pieces of legislation. The things that come out of Labor Committee should be considered by that committee. The Appropriations Committee should not have its fiscal staff developing recommendations or assessments of the impact. So for this reason, I want to strike the language that says, "under the direction of the Appropriations Committee" and I am a member of that committee and that is one thing that makes me very nervous about the power that is in here because you are giving to us in the Appropriations Committee broad power over a wide variety of legislation. The other thing is, I will say again, that I think these statements are not necessarily, cannot be objective. There are going to be several perspectives on the impact of labor legislation, banking legislation and I don't think we should ask our staff to try and decide for us what the impact is. That decision should rest with the committee. That decision should rest with the Legislature. For this reason, I move this amendment to substitute the phrase "upon the request of the sponsor of a bill" for "under the direction of the Appropriations Committee".

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Fowler in his motion. I think Senator Fowler has