

1113. That is signed by Senator Chizek as Chair.

Mr. President, Senator Ashford would like to add his name to 163 as co-introducer.

FRESIDENT: No objection, so ordered. Do you have any further announcements, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: No, sir, not at this time.

PRESIDENT: Do you have any bills to introduce today?

CLERK: Yes, sir, I do.

PRESIDENT: All right.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 244-250 by title for the first time. See pages 151-52 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: While we are waiting for more bills, Speaker Barrett, I understand you have something you would like to tell us about.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think this announcement should be of particular interest to chairpersons and also to those of you who have already introduced bills or are in the process of introducing new bills. As the body knows, we have amended our permanent rules. We repealed that rule which requires a four calendar day recess following bill introduction period and prohibited any committee hearings until after that particular recess. I believe that was Rule 7, Section 1. The announcement is simply this. Chairpersons now will be able to hold hearings a little earlier than normally has been the case. Committee hearings can be scheduled as soon as the seven calendar day notice requirement has been submitted to the Clerk's office. It is my understanding that committee hearings will be started in at least two, perhaps three, committees as early as Tuesday of next week. This is fine. This is as it should be. Some committees will be going next week and, hopefully, that will allow us then to handle some bills a little earlier on General File than has normally been the case and it will certainly avoid and ease some of that congestion that nearly always takes place as the session progresses. The second announcement, Mr. President, is one issued jointly by Senator Labedz as Chair of the Executive Board and myself regarding the introduction of