

this pet bill of Senator Kristensen is to him, a hearing. We haven't had the opportunity yet to begin the process, other than the introduction of the bill. And you've got well over one-third of the session gone. In about two weeks we pick priority bills, and we move to priority bill status, and we have the opportunity to then have those jump to the head of the list. What you're looking at here is a maneuver, and I appreciate that part of it, but a maneuver to have a bill that's already had a public hearing, has already been killed by a committee, be put on General File ahead of a number of bills that haven't even had a chance to have a hearing. It will jump to the General File list before we ever get to designation of priority bills. And the bill has already been heard and killed. That, I think, is a bad move for this body to make, no matter what the content of the bill is. I happen to oppose the bill. I opposed it for a number of reasons, many of which Senator Kristensen gave himself. I do believe that when an individual has a million dollar policy on their home, that the state, because it is open 24-hours a day, must meet and must have a higher threshold. I think also when you have a bill like this, that even though Senator Kristensen talks about, well you may want to debate what the limits are, what that tells you is once the bill is out on the floor it becomes a donnybrook. It will eat up time and take up days on this issue, because there really is a policy question here. Right now, in Senator Kristensen's own words, you have him tell us that there has not been an award anywhere near the million dollar mark. As a matter of fact, our own statutes require that any award in excess of \$50,000 has to come to the Legislature. When was the last time in your memory that you can think of that an award in excess, in the six figure area, came to the Legislature? It's been a long time, and they have been few and far between. The other issue is when you bring a bill like this and you cry wolf, that this terrible process is going to happen all of a sudden, what you are going to do is make the million dollars not the ceiling but the floor. It will become the floor by which those awards are given. In other words, now because the standard is not there and what has happened in the past is that people have been extremely conservative in their awards, what happens is that the million dollars becomes the threshold, not the ceiling for an individual, but the floor. It's the standard by which the claims are judged, so it becomes the dollar figure that is used by the people who give out those awards. And that's the real danger of a bill like this, that it becomes the dollar figure that we then have to address. And I can tell you, ladies and gentlemen,...