

take effect until the end of 1996. It would be something that folks could plan for when choosing either their new Chairman of the Executive Board or their new Speaker. They could look at that, but it would not impact or affect in any way the current system of Intergovernmental as it exists and that was the purpose for looking at it in LB 307, to have it take effect after the current term of Senator Avery would run out. I don't want this to be a reflection at all on Mike Avery because it is not. This was discussed long and hard for at least the last year in terms of some reorganizing that needed to be done. The Executive Board talked about this. This is one of the fruits of those discussions and I believe that it is an opportunity for us to basically do away with one committee, slide those responsibilities over into other areas where they can be readily picked up. I know, for example, the accounting function within Legislative Council handles much of the, if not all, the bookkeeping other than the recordkeeping, and I want to make a distinction there. There is recordkeeping that is required through Intergovernmental. That would have to be assumed by the Executive Board, but the accounting portion of that travel expenses is already done under the Executive Board through the Accounting Office. The appointment aspect is one that has traditionally been done almost in concert with the Speaker's Office and I believe that there would be little change to make that shift. With that, I see now that the sections of statutes that the bill repeals that I referred to are on your desk. I would offer this as an opportunity for us to make some effort in our own house with regard to reorganization, elimination of some things and I believe that it is a good policy approach for us to undertake. With that, I would offer LB 307 for discussion and I would yield the balance of any time that I might have in the opening to Senator Withem if he would so like it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem, you have four minutes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall, thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in support of the advancement of LB 307. As Senator Hall indicated, we...this is an item that was discussed long before we had any idea who was going to be chairing the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. The bill was obviously one that was up at bill drafters office with the relatively small number that had prior to our reorganization. It would have been here had there been a different Chair of the committee and I hope we can keep it on that level. Number two, would point out that the Executive