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done and it should be given to the Legislature generally, not to a specific committee. And I would just get to this end, which is so good, by a different means.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Landis. The Chair recognizes Senator Brown.

**SENATOR BROWN:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I intended to comment generally and I think now I will respond a little bit to what Senator Landis said, because I think he brought up some good points and the most important point, as far as I'm concerned, was the point that this should belong to the Legislature as a whole. And I...but I...but I'm not certain that I believe that having one committee do the work and then bring it back to the body is a bad idea. But I do think that this is a very important issue for the body as a whole to take very seriously. We've had some discussions already this year about the creation of boards and commissions. Having watched it, and these commissions are our creation and we...we vest a lot of power and it's a very good way to get citizen involvement in government. I'm not certain, though, that we want the citizen involvement in government in an administrative capacity rather than an advisory capacity, and that's a conclusion that I've come to about boards and commissions in a general way. The other conclusion, and it's something that Senator Wehrbein spoke to, but, having reviewed boards and commissions' budgets through the appropriations process, always the requests are substantially higher than that which you get from the administration and it's very understandable. There's a particular purpose that these commissions serve. They're fairly single interest in that...in that purpose. They don't have the general fiscal concerns of the state that they're bearing. They're bearing the concerns about whatever that particular issue is that they address. And so I think that this is very much a policy issue. It is not specifically...it's a policy issue for all of us about how you best administer government and how you best hold accountability, and especially fiscal accountability. I would say just...and this is just in...in what I can remember from what...from the boards and commissions that we have already reviewed in the appropriations process this year, that the average increase that they've asked for is about 25 percent, substantially higher than what I think we're going