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LB 94

that this bill currently addresses are issues that were brought by other funeral directors in competitive situations somewhat at odds with the bulk of funeral directors. Those were the only questions that really the Appropriations Committee talked about. Those were the only ones that were afforded to the Health Committee. Those were the only ones that were brought up in the hearing, kind of interprofessional rivalries and arguments, if you will. So we have I guess served a function with that in terms of trying to resolve maybe some of the fights that the profession could not resolve itself but we have failed to address the relationship of the industry to the consumer. I think that it is very valuable that Senator Chambers has brought these issues in. I think it is very important that we consider them this year, because if the sunset process is to mean anything, this is the time that we should address these sorts of questions. So I support the adding of the definitions. I support Senator Chambers' effort to bring these consumer amendments, and if we have to allow an opportunity either to hold the bill on General File for comment or another public hearing, I think certainly we could do that and I think that the Speaker can work the schedule out so that this bill could be passed this year even with the amendments adopted. So I would hope that a lot of procedural smoke screens aren't thrown in the face of Senator Chambers' effort to get this Legislature to address the true issues of consumers needs with regards to this area. This is the best year to address this question. I certainly would hope that people would support Senator Chambers in that effort.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I certainly share the concern that Senator Chambers has expressed in regard to the consumers affected by this bill. I think many of us agree that the bereaved consumer is in no position to bargain effectively. However, I agree with Senator Cullan that this should come through as a separate bill and I believe that Senator Chambers' own statement which is at the bottom of the page that he circulated to all of us expresses that thought very well, when he says LB 94 is a grave undertaking which requires much digging for facts and removal of skeletons from the closet. If we do our work properly, the body of the bill will stand as a monument to our concern for the bereaved consumer who is in no position to bargain effectively. I suggest that this is a huge undertaking which should not be taken up through this vehicle, that we should come back in with a