

April 30, 1981

LB 558

and I will do the best I can to see that it, in fact, gets done. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the Beutler amendment to LB 558. All those in favor of that amendment vote aye, opposed vote no. No, this is the vote on the Beutler amendment to LB 558. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to adopt the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Wesely and Beutler now move to amend the bill. (Read the Wesely-Beutler amendment as found on page 1665 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this issue was brought to the Appropriations Committee and originally what the amendment which is before you now was adopted, then the committee changed its mind and went back to splitting the Natural Resources Coordinator position amongst two agencies in addition to the Governor's office. And so what we would like to do is to ask the Legislature to amend the Appropriations bill, LB 558, to return to that original committee position, which I think was the best policy position we could take. Essentially what we are asking for in this amendment is to have direct accountability for an individual's staff, salary and position and authority. I think that we have seen through a number of examples that have come to light that it is very important that we have direct lines of responsibility and that it is very important that we hold people accountable for expenditures of tax dollars. I think what we are trying to do is to identify quite clearly that the Natural Resources Coordinator works for the Governor. He is serving the Governor in a coordinating position in the Natural Resources area and that as a result of that position he should be working out of the Governor's office. He does have supervisory, or in a sense, almost supervisory authority over a number of different agencies involved in Natural Resources, two of those, the Department of Water Resources and Department of Environmental Control, however, are going to be paying for part of his salary under the present appropriations bill. That really doesn't seem to be...well, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense when you think about it, to have an individual whose position is to work for the Governor as his right arm, in a sense, in the Natural Resources area, to oversee that area,