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Warner has proposed is a very good way to involve the whole Legislature in the appropriations process, make us aware of the problems and force us in the sense to take some responsibility in leadership early on as to what we think we ought to be doing with appropriations. I certainly support the rule change. I think it will benefit all of us in the Legislature and the taxpayers of this state and would urge your adoption. Now I would like to defer the rest of my time to Senator Warner to further explain the rule change. Senator Warner.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wesely essentially described the purpose but it is generally intended to provide early input by the Legislature as a whole as to what the total appropriations ought to be for the ensuing year. It not only serves as a guide to the Appropriations Committee but it also would serve to a guide to each of the standing committees because included in the proposal is the allocation of funds that would be available for A bills or floor amendments which again has been a practice we have internally used but the Legislature did not have input as to what level that ought to be. I think this session it's probably particularly significant to use this approach because we all understand based upon current receipts that the receipts that are projected to be received by the state will be something less as the laws now stand, something less than what probably eventually will be appropriated for the simple fact that there are less funds available than there are necessary even to meet the current budget. But aside from that or rather because of that, this time particularly, it seems to me that indication to the Revenue Committee to what the Legislature as a whole believes ought to be available for appropriations in their total, can only be accomplished with this kind of a process and secondly, it certainly is direction to the Appropriations Committee itself. Philosophically I agree and I think some years ago I can recall a story shortly before when I became chairman of Appropriations that philosophically I believed that those funds that are necessary to provide the revenue needed for specific programs ought to be done on the merit of that program and that alone. But as I became more acquainted with the budget process it became evident to me that in order for a committee of nine or for that matter, forty-nine, to arrive at budget decisions, you really need some kind of a target figure in which you start with to gauge the merits against the total of money that is available for those to fund those individual requests. I would hope that you would see fit to giving it a try. It is not unlike what is