

because it does involve at this point, legislation, but at that point, we all know about it. An ex officio member is supposed to advise, period.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: So in that particular case I would just simply and respectfully suggest, to answer your question, that I hope this doesn't get out of proportion and turn into what could appear to be a...you know, kind of a political thing almost between who is going to have what authority and power because it is not really intended to do that at all, simply to recognize what the committee is actually all about and provide the committee makeup elected by the body and do away with whatever kind of concern or confusion might exist about ex officio membership, but the amendment offered by Senator Warner just complicates that more, in my opinion, because it doesn't address legitimately the people that should be on it, in an ex officio capacity if, in fact, the intention is to have oversight as it involves people affected by that particular budget. So I'd recommend that we support the amendment to the amendment. At least it would recognize money coming in and going out. Oppose the amendment offered by Senator Warner and then ultimately support the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, although I serve as a loyal member of Senator Lynch's Rules Committee, I'm not going to support his amendment to the amendment because I don't think we should be...I think the purpose of the bill is to say we ought to treat the Retirement Committee like we do any other committee of the Legislature. The membership ought to be chosen as other committees should be chosen and you can make an argument on, certainly, certainly, Education Committee. Fifty percent of our state budget is spent on education. You could make a strong argument that the chair of the Appropriations Committee and the Revenue Committee ought to serve as ex officio members of that committee and down the litany. I'm sure, Senator Haberman, I could even think of a rationale for them being on the Ag Committee in this particular case. I think the Rules Committee was making a fairly simple suggestion, totally independent of any other bills dealing with, when we made this suggestion last December it was long before anybody talked about Executive Board membership or any of those other things. We