

For instance, one thing it does, the financial disclosure statements that people need to submit to the Legislature prior to taking office, it simplifies the language to indicate that they have to be there prior to the confirmation hearing or prior to the assumption of the duties. It increases from three to five the number of individuals appearing on the list that are submitted by the political parties and by the Executive Board of the Legislature, increases the quorum from four to five members. Most of those are fairly technical things. There is one somewhat substantive change that is made in the law, however, that was dictated by an Attorney General's opinion. The current interpretation, the law says that an individual cannot serve on the Accountability and Disclosure Commission if they hold an office that is regulated. For instance, if they are a registered lobbyist or a candidate for office, or public officeholder, or an officer in a political party, that they cannot serve on the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. The interpretation of the current law is that prior to having their name even submitted to the Governor for appointment, they have to make that resignation. So if you have three individuals, all of whom are currently serving as political party officers and they have their names...before their names can be submitted to the Governor, all three of them would have to resign even though only one of them is ultimately going to be chosen to be on the commission. So what the main intent of this law and the reason for the introduction of this bill is that it will make it only the one that is ultimately selected to serve on the Accountability and Disclosure Commission is the only one then who will have to resign whatever other practice that they are engaged in. It seems, basically, if you exempt people who are active in the political process from consideration for serving on the Accountability and Disclosure Commission, you don't have a lot of people that are interested in politics to serve on that, and so that is the rationale for the legislation. You might look in your committee statement that Governor Orr's representative, Gary Rex, supported the bill, representatives for both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party also supported the bill, so it is a fairly simple concept. If you have any questions, I would attempt to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the bill, Senator Hall. Any discussion? If not, the Chair assumes that is the opening and the closing, Senator Withem, and the question before the body is the advancement of LB 534 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the