

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, would you respond?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR LYNCH: Senator Withem, in its present form, how long has 259 been with us?

SENATOR WITHEM: In its present form?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah.

SENATOR WITHEM: Technically speaking, it's been with us about five minutes since we adopted the E & R amendments. The concepts that are here in LB 259 were presented at the committee hearing in February, whatever the date was, first part of February last year.

SENATOR LYNCH: Would a request for an Attorney General's Opinion at any stage of this legislation dwell on any of...primarily on any of the amendments including E & R or would they primarily deal with the bill in its original form and the concepts of it?

SENATOR WITHEM: Well, I think what...as I understand Senator Coordsen's amendment, it would, after the bill passes, then we would set up a process for the court to, petition the court to immediately review it. So it would be the final form that the court would be looking at. Now the AG's Opinion that we do have that supports the constitutionality of the committee amendments to the bill, basically is applicable to the E & R amendments and the way the bill is, and I answered the question both ways because I wasn't sure which direction you were asking.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, could I ask Senator Coordsen a question then, please?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR LYNCH: Was there any thought given to questioning the legality of any of the sections of law before today, George?

SENATOR COORDSEN: No.