

themselves on whether bonuses are being awarded for political loyalty as opposed to professional performance.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, we have a priority motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hannibal would move to refer LR 258 to the Reference Committee for reference to a Standing Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hannibal, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I made the motion because there could be two bodies of thought on the issue. I have had...have heard from Senator McFarland that he believes that the resolution is important because, according to the Attorney General's Opinion, the opinion is quite ambiguous and maybe gives a lot of discretion to the...to the agencies of government or the Department of Personnel. I don't happen to agree with that. I happen to believe that the Attorney General's Opinion does not give any discretion and says that contrary to the...to the Tax Commissioner's original thought of trying to keep the personnel files confidential with regard to this and acting as the Tax Commissioner thought was his duty, the Attorney General has said since that, with that opinion, that, no, you would not be violation of those rights that you have in order to disclose these things. I think that, at the very least, whether you agree with the more literal reading of the Attorney General's Opinion or whether you believe, as Senator McFarland, that there could be some discretion involved here, that regardless of which way you believe, that this is not a resolution that is handled typically as we handle resolutions on the floor without going through a committee process and that these types of issues, if they are to be debated and if they are...if there is an issue involved, that at the very least we ought to have it done, not on the floor of the Legislature but that we ought to send it to the Executive Board and go through the referencing process that we would for any issues, any resolutions that would fall under this category, which was a rule that we made some time ago. So my argument is that regardless of how you feel about the resolution, that if there is, indeed, a question, that question ought to be referred to the Executive Board, referenced by the Executive Board to a committee of jurisdiction that they deem appropriate and that if when that discussion takes place and the question is not resolved, comes back to the floor, then we can...we can address