

cancellation of the public hearing on LR 258.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Baack, please.

**SENATOR BAACK:** Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. This resolution, I don't know if you remember the other day we had the resolution of Senator McFarland, where he wanted the Department of Revenue to issue the numbers about the bonuses and everything that were paid over the years. They have since done that and he had a resolution, the resolution was referred to committee. The Reference Committee referred it to the Government Committee, and we had scheduled a hearing for tomorrow on that. But the...And I visited with Senator McFarland about it, the Revenue Department did issue those numbers, so at this point we feel no...that we have no reason for a hearing to be held tomorrow on this issue. So this is just to suspend the rules and cancel that hearing that was to be held on LR 258 tomorrow. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. If there is anyone that would like to speak to that motion, please raise your hand. Senator McFarland.

**SENATOR MCFARLAND:** Just briefly. I did visit with Senator Baack about this, and we visited about whether, even if we held the hearing, there could be any legislation proposed that would change and clarify the language about what is public information and what is personal information. And we came to the conclusion that we probably couldn't introduce any legislation this session anyway. So, to save time and to...for the convenience of the committee itself in having to hear testimony on something that would necessarily come up in legislation for next year, we thought it appropriate just to cancel the hearing. I would commend the Department of Revenue for disclosing the information. I had hoped that they would have done it sooner, but they have complied with that. The information is public, and it can be interpreted and debated according to the wishes of those persons that are concerned about it. It seems appropriate to me that those expenditures of public funds should be made public. They were made public this time. It seems to me that the proper role of the Revenue Department is not to be involved in the matters of politics and trying to be a spokesperson or group of spokespersons for a particular candidate. Their function is to administer the tax dollars that are paid to this state, and that is their primary responsibility, and I hope they