

are. I have a lot of questions on 228 and I have a lot of problems with 228. The committee amendments I'm not sure make it better, quite frankly. We have taken out the specific direction that the counsel would provide to the Legislature such as advising legislative committees and members of the Legislature and their staff relative to the legislation bill drafting and preparation. In other words, when it is in the initial stages giving some kind of counsel, but then in the new section (1) which used to be section (3). We have eliminated all the preliminary help that this person, legal person could give us, and instead we jump right to the formal legal opinions when requested by the Clerk or any member of the Legislature concerning questions of law when the request has the prior approval of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. To me, first of all of course, opening it up to the back end when I think we need someone at the front end, at the back end we have the Attorney General. Now there is a lot of Attorney General bashing, I'm sure that will be done, but remember Attorney Generals come and go and the Legislature goes on forever and particularly new programs that are established by the Legislature tend to go on forever and ever and ever. It also, we have deleted in the committee amendments the second and third sentence, second and third lines of page 3 which says the counsel shall maintain a permanent record of any formal, legal opinion that he or she has issued. I guess maybe, how do we know what the legal counsel is doing? How do we know what opinions that they have issued. To me, I do not think you should take out a record of the legal opinions that your so-called hireling has issued. I guess I'm going to have to oppose the committee amendments, and because of the start of what I see as a new program when we create the position of counsel to the Legislature, whether we put them on retainer or whether we hire someone full time, that is still allowed in the bill. And with the \$95,000 price tag and I'm sure because the Clerk may hire deputies and assistants for the counsel, probably that price tag would not remain at that low level for very long. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Kristensen, may I ask you a couple of questions if you would?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.