

services that are being called for in this bill. I can't help but think, very realistically think that we're going to create an office of attorneys and clerks that are going to be running around giving legal opinions to members of the Legislature. I'm not sure that's exactly what we need to do. The analogy of Congress bothers me a little bit too. I know in watching the Congress try to pass a crime bill the last two years, they probably have too many lawyers working on their crime bill because they can't seem to get anything through the Congress so I don't think that's a very good analogy. The fact that they spend years and years debating an issue may be one of the reasons why these bills are never declared unconstitutional. They are never passed in the first place. But I don't want to pooh-pooh the issue. I mean, I want to talk about it and try to listen to Senator Kristensen and understand what he is trying to do here. I think you are putting a lot more responsibility on one person...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...one lawyer than one lawyer can handle. I think we're underestimating the cost which doesn't necessarily bother me if, in fact, there is a service that needs to be rendered here. But if there is a service that needs to be rendered here, I think we need to accurately reflect what the cost really is. I think we're talking about a couple of lawyers, we're talking about a couple of clerks, we're talking about that kind of thing because what happens oftentimes when you create these kinds of offices is that legal problems are created that aren't there in the first place, that sometimes we create legal problems so we can solve them. So we have to be careful of that and what impact it would have...there would be to actually have a lawyer on staff. So those are some of the concerns that I have and I'll be listening to the debate to see how I will vote on the committee amendments and the bill itself. Thank you.

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

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President and members of the body, the committee amendments take out everything. It takes out advice on legislation and draft bills, advise committee or matters concerning legislation, provide formal legal opinions, represent members and their staff in lawsuits and intervene in lawsuits on behalf of the Legislature. The attorney-client relationship is