

to oppose the Beutler amendment. I hope you'll take a look at it because it's one of those things that has, I think, an excellent goal but the means of accomplishing that goal are as problematical as the chance of doing us some good. I hope by opposing the amendment I'm not sending the signal that I'm endorsing ignorance. We would all profit by the kind of research that Senator Beutler is trying to accomplish in the amendment. However, notice the provision that says, a final vote of the Legislature on such legislation shall not be taken until such five-day period has passed, and this is where a bill is set up for engrossing. Well it's possible to send the bill on Select File, from Select File to Final Reading in the last three days of the Legislature but if an Attorney General is slow in that big crush of legislation, we can get something up there the five-day period would not have run under this law, not rule, and we would not be, under law, able to vote on the piece of legislation. This is an example of why using the mechanism of passing a law to accomplish this end, I think is the inappropriate means. If we want to accomplish this end, have the Executive Board adopt a policy in which the Executive Board had or the Vice-Chairman regularly requests an Attorney General's Opinion, work out an understanding with the Attorney General as to how that will be done. I'm sure we can negotiate a process with the Attorney General to accomplish this and effectuate it by policy. If we can't do it by policy alone, then let's do it by rule inside the body which is then suspendable under emergency circumstances. But let's remind ourselves that in most controversial cases opponents regularly do this now. By passing a law for that which is simply doing our job well, we make it difficult for us and we create more red tape which in some cases will do us good, but in other cases will do us ill. We need more flexibility and it seems to me that we don't need to pass a statute to tell us the form in which we need to be careful about taking on this responsibility. If we're to do it, let us do it by rule, not law; something that can be suspended under emergency circumstances so it has more flexibility and better yet, let's just do it by adopting sensible policies by our Executive Board. For that reason I oppose turning this into law and yet want to endorse what it is that Senator Beutler wants to get at which is all of us being informed at the time that we vote on final passage of a bill whether we're looking at something that gives us cause to reflect as to the potential responsibility of the state to pay costs if we know that we're overstepping constitutional bounds or have a significant suspicion that we're overstepping