

probably concur with that. What I think Senator Moore is doing here is bringing a bill to us to provide a substantive change in statutes to accommodate a recommendation that the Appropriations Committee is making. He came to the Rules Committee, the other day when we were meeting, and pointed out to us, as Senator Robinson has, that we don't have a particular well-established tradition of how we handle this. When the Appropriations Committee, after they meet, and massage the budget, and analyze all types of state spending projects, you know, what do we do if one of their recommendations involves changing statutes. And we really do need to look at that. Historically, I believe the way this has been done, maybe not historically, but some sessions I know what the Appropriations Committee has done is they've looked at a number of bills that they've had referred to their committee, they've put committee amendments onto those bills and advanced those bills onto the floor. I, frankly, much prefer this methodology of coming to the body, putting us on notice that a statutory change is needed, introducing the bill, having that bill referred onto a committee, I assume it would be the appropriate subject matter committee, for a hearing. We did this process last year. I think the only distinction was last year, as Senator Moore indicated, the recommendation was to refer the bill directly to General File. A couple of them were, a couple of them were referred to the committees. The committees did have hearings, and I think that was...beings my committee was one of them, I think it was a valuable process we went through. So, I think the process that Senator Moore is following here is, at least until we get a more general sense of how to handle this process, is a good process. And it is...gives the full body an opportunity to use its mechanisms to deal with the manner in which substantive language in the statutes ought to be changed. So I would urge everybody to vote for this rule suspension.

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

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just very briefly, Madam President, members. I appreciate Senator Withem's discussion of this issue. In the Appropriations Committee we toyed with the mechanism of how to deal with, in this case, a cut of a program out of existing programs, and came up with this methodology. Senator Moore has explained it, and I think Senator Withem's explanation as to the benefits of doing it this way is adequate. But we are going to be facing, clearly in the next biennium, more and more of this...these types of programmatic cuts. And I think it's