

Select File. LB 1098 did have a full hearing in committee, and it was advanced to the floor on General File without any voting...votes against the bill. We have had third degree assault on our statutes for 15 years, and it has not stopped anything yet. It hasn't stopped stalking. Senator Beutler mentions the cost to prosecute in this case. I believe that cost, if you were a stalking victim, if you had listened to the victims that I had in my office, and the calls that I had, and the calls that my staff and Pirsch's staff have worked with for so long, I don't think we would even think about cost. We've had this on the books for 15 years, we've had third degree assault on the books for 15 years and it hasn't stopped yet. I think if Senator Beutler wants to study this and come in next year with a bill, this isn't going to hurt anything to have this on the books for one year, in fact it will help. I oppose this motion to return to Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler is doing today something which it has often been my unpleasant task to do, and that's to call the body's attention to some flaws in a bill which has a laudable purpose and which attempts to address what has become, lately, a highly recognized offense or problem that some people encounter. But I hope that you listened to the analysis Senator Beutler gave. When this bill was going to be before the Judiciary Committee, a lady called me and told me how she had been stalked. I told her that the kind of things that she described were violations of the law right now, and if the prosecutor would not prosecute when those activities constituted a violation of the law, what made her think that calling the same conduct by a different name is going to lead to prosecution. That's what we have to look at. And I told her that it might make a lot of people who push this legislation feel good and think they've done something, but all it will succeed in doing is create more cynicism toward the law, more criticisms of prosecutors because if they will not prosecute this type of conduct now, when a law allows it, they are not going to prosecute it just because you give it a different name. And the number of hurdles that exist in this bill make it a nullity. One of the reasons that I didn't give a lot of argument against it earlier is because this bill will never be enforced. One of the keys, in addition to what Senator Beutler mentioned to you, can be found at the bottom of page 2 where the individual doing