

employment of folks, and then spell it out in the A bill. But, I mean, I'll listen to what the thought was on that. But I sure think that it behooves us to keep that authorization in there. I would want to make sure it was there because otherwise my guess is that they'd have to come out of 122, they'd have to come out of the budget of the Legislative Council, and it's not that ripe to be picked, to be quite honest with you. So I would like to know what the thought is because otherwise I'd want to make sure that that authorization remains in the bill. We can go ahead and, in a clean move I guess, adopt the committee amendments. But I'd want to put this language back in to ensure that those individuals are allowed to be employed and that they fall outside the regular budget of the Legislative Council. And if you'd like to speak to that possibly, Senator Kristensen, or Senator Bernard-Stevens, but I think it's a necessary component of this proposal. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr President, members of the body, Senator Hall, I have no difficulty, at least personally, that we add some clarification as an amendment later on. I'd rather cleanly look at the committee amendments and go in later in authorization. What...the concern that the committee had, at least speaking for the concern that I had, because I think this was a portion of my amendment that was agreed to, was that we simply didn't want to have...we didn't want to have a part where it's totally open-ended, that all necessary and all expenses that they may deem necessary are simply going to be approved, and we wanted to have some type of control as what exactly are we talking about on all necessary and whatever is needed. Did we need to have office space, new staff, file cabinets, research staff, what did that mean? And I think the committee felt like we'd rather have that discussion on the floor as far as when we...if people do put the authorization back in, whether it's Senator Kristensen saying it needs to be approved by the Executive Board or what have you, but at least a good discussion of what exactly we're talking about. And I think that was the intent, certainly it was my intent on the amendment. So I would not disagree. If you wish to offer an amendment later on after the committee amendments, that would help clarify that for you on the authorization.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator