

February 28, 1995 LB 307

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. There is an amendment to the bill, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, Senator Avery would move to amend. That amendment is found on page 727. (See AM0354.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I do realize the concerns and many times it relates back to communication problems, but I do have a concern in here. Bottom line, what my amendment does is basically leaves in the legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Cooperation and goes ahead and allows the elimination of the Governor's Committee and Nebraska Commission for Intergovernmental. Several things that I...my concern is that the more that we have, each one of us as individuals takes part in the operation in this body, it enhances that public perception of this body and we must always try to do everything that we can to enhance that public image. So anything that we do to show that the power, the body is being run by a select few is detrimental to this body. As far as cost savings, this Intergovernmental doesn't have any additional cost necessarily. It's individuals that volunteer, the committee isn't extra. One concern that I have is there is the record keeping that Senator Hall mentioned. Staff are doing that. That's added duty given to them. Does the Executive Board or committee, the Chairman of the Executive Board, does he have, going to have to hire additional staff to take care of this when you already have staff that are taking care of it? That is definitely a concern. Maybe it would cost more. And I do understand problems that things may not be done accordingly in the past, but we have those problems. I think that maybe reinforces more emphasis that the committee be given a little stronger status and participate more in the process instead of maybe the Chairman of the Intergovernmental doing it. I may not take the job the next time or even run for it, but I'm looking down the future, what's good for this body and potentially allowing each and every individual to participate at a greater level in the operation of the body. Presently the one point...presently the rules reference statute, and if statute is eliminated, that eliminates the provision of our rules that references back to statute. So in terms of the bill and in terms of an effective date, that probably is covered. With that, I think I'll allow individuals to ask any questions. Thank you.