

SENATOR AVERY: What do you mean. greater standing?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, do you think it should have more statutory protection than the Judiciary Committee?

SENATOR AVERY: Oh, I don't know, I don't think so.

SPEAKER WITHEM: How about the Education Committee?

SENATOR AVERY: Same.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay. This bill would give it the same statutory authority as the Judiciary Committee and the Education Committee because none of those are listed in the statutes. Right now there are few committees that we have that do have statutory authority. Education Commission of the States is one, Building Maintenance, Executive Board and Program Evaluation in addition to Intergovernmental Cooperation. All of the other committees that we have, Judiciary, Education, subject matter committees, Health and Human Services, all of those exist by legislative rule. If this bill passes without the Avery amendment, what we'll simply do will be to remove an 1941 law from our books and it's kind of interesting, if you read that, I believe what the Avery amendment will do would be... would keep provisions 816 and 819 in the statute along with 824 which the original bill did not seek to repeal, but it would repeal all of the rest of it. That's 1941 language that envisioned a committee doing something far differently than what we use the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee to do today. I would point out I would disagree with Senator Avery's interpretation that passage of this bill would automatically get rid of this committee, it would not. It would still exist in our rules. I would probably be supportive of those next session that would move to change our rules so that we didn't have to have this committee, but mere passage of this bill does not get rid of the committee. Would also point out that the way I understand the policy-making body of the Legislature, and this is an interesting, I'd be interested in Senator Hall's reaction back to this on his own time, I don't think if we simply wanted to take away the power of our current Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, we would not have to pass this bill. That same Executive Board that passed this bill out on a 9-0 vote could by 9-0 change our policy. Nothing in this statute gives the Intergovernmental Committee the power to approve travel requests