

ought to set the example to do away with one of our own if we're going to, in many cases, and I know I've introduced a couple of bills that do away with various boards or commissions or tries to consolidate them. And I think it's very appropriate for us to, I guess, lead the way in this effort. It's not a reflection at all on Senator Avery. It puts it into effect in 1997 so that his term of office would continue throughout. It would have been introduced under any circumstances, and frankly, as I stated earlier, it was the way we thought the Exec Board did was appropriately the way to handle it rather than do it by policy, because people were looking at running for this committee.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR HALL: With that, again, Madam President, I rise in opposition to the Avery amendment to LB 307. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body. I'm going to be brief because I'd like to see Senator Avery be able to get a vote on his amendment here today. I would further say I hope that vote is somewhat...24 or fewer votes because I do not think it is a particularly good amendment. What Senator Avery is seeking to do is to keep the legislative reference to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee in the statutes. But I call your attention to even that language is archaic, it makes reference to, as I pointed out the other day, some organization known as Legislative Council of the American Legislators Association, which nobody that I know of even knows what that is anymore. It keeps the Lieutenant Governor as an ex officio honorary nonvoting member of this committee. So language itself is archaic. The thing I guess I would point out is even with the statutory reference taken away for this committee, if the Legislature chooses to divide its work by giving the...by continuing this committee, the Legislature can do so. Passage of this bill would not automatically wipe out the committee because there's a reference to it in our rules and it would change a rules change to do that. But by and large I think there is a more efficient way, this is a committee that does internal business inside the Legislature, and I think that there is probably a more efficient way of doing that business and we can let our Executive Board do that. So I am not going to be voting for the Avery amendment and I hope a majority of the members do not also.