

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I know it is difficult to know where we're...many of you know where we are at in the budget process, and it is difficult for me to describe it because we are still going through and we are going to go through another time. And so I want to be completely up front. I think if this is an issue that you want to have, for example, I am going to oppose the bracket. I think it ought to at least go through another step in the process, at least through Select. It would be honest to let it go through to Select, and then deci...that's where it is going to sit anyway, and wait and see how it fits into the rest of them. I really can't see bracketing it at General File, if you really want to wait and see how it fits in with the rest of the budget. By April 27th, we will have submitted a balanced budget to you and we will have made the decision on how much to allow for A bills and, here again, I don't mean to sound arrogant. That is typically what we've done, making allowances for bills that we sense. We have to make those judgment calls all the time on all of our parts to what bills we are going to support ourselves and what we are not. If you feel this is a budget...an issue that should move forward in economic development, I think it is fair to move it one more time, and then let it sit out there on its own. Otherwise, we could bottleneck several bills. We've got the boot camp bill that's got much...almost as much money in it, for example, and we are going to have a real bottleneck around the 2nd or 4th of May, if we delay too many. And so I am not going to say at this time whether there is going to be that much money or not. You will have to make that decision. You will have to decide where ethanol fits in that picture for you, but I believe that it doesn't really hurt, speaking to the bracket, to move this one more time and, if it is to go on General File, and then it will, in essence, be bracketed without the formal process because it will wait to come up after the mainline budget. Is that not the way you'd understand it, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER WITHEM: No. As I understand it, it would not be bracketed on...you made some reference to being bracketed on Select File.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, no.

SPEAKER WITHEM: With the way we deal with these bills is they go through to Final Reading and then they wait on Final Reading, but they don't wait on Select File.