

April 13, 1995

LB 671, 856

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Abboud voting yes. Senator Day voting yes. Senator Robinson voting yes. Senator Bromm voting yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The bill is advanced. The call is raised. LB 856, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 856, it's a bill introduced by Senator Hall. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 19, referred to the Government Committee. That committee reports the bill directly to General File.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, to open.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LB 856 is the bill that deals with the Government Effectiveness Act, otherwise known as the "whistle blower act", if you will. The bill makes two changes, one is very technical, it is found on page 3 of the green copy of the bill. It just merely adds that the report, once it is transmitted to the Governor or to his or her authorized representatives that we also would transmit it to the appropriate board or commission that has governing authority over the director or chief operating officer. And what this does, this provision basically recognizes that there are noncode agencies that do not respond to the Governor directly. Game and Parks comes to mind and there are others as well and this just clarifies that that report would go to those individuals who have direct control or oversight over the chief operating officer or the director of that agency. So that is a very technical change. The change on page 4 of the bill deals with what used to take place in terms of the report. It used to be that a copy of the report was forwarded to the Clerk of the Legislature who then forwarded it to the Exec Board. The Exec Board had the authority to release the report after a majority of the members of the Exec Board authorized that release. We had our first one of these issues that we dealt with since the enactment of this legislation and frankly what happened was because of the amount of time that it took for the public counsel, the ombudsman, to review this, then the Executive Board received the report. In the meantime information regarding the