

asking for a ruling by the Chair on whether or not this underlying bracket motion is in order. I would argue that based on Rule 8, Section 5, dealing with the appropriations bills, shall be passed no later than the eightieth legislative day in a ninety-day session. It would seem to me that that particular provision would need to be suspended. The rule would need to be suspended in order to take up the motion to bracket because a bracket motion would take the bill until the eightieth day and make it impossible to fulfill the rule. So I do believe that it does violate the rules to even offer the bracket motion without a rule suspension.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wesely, on your motion, I would rule that the underlying bracket motion is in order because Senator Robinson is well within the rules to offer the bracket motion. If this were the eightieth day, I would argue that you are absolutely right, that there would probably need to be a rule suspension as well. If we were to...I guess what you need to know is that when you vote for the bracket motion in this case that you very likely may have to vote for a rule suspension at the point in time that the budget is voted on, should it be beyond the eightieth day.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I...I would argue that, in fact, we should have to have a suspension of the rules in order to take this bracket motion because it would violate our rules then by making it impossible to meet the eightieth day, but I won't move to overrule the Chair, the point being that one way or the other it could cause us to be in a situation where we need to do a rule suspension and ultimately pass the budget bill which would be another problem for us to address at a later point. I think we're on track. The Appropriations Committee has attempted to try and bring us the proposals on the appropriations process so we can meet our deadline on the eightieth day. That then allows us to move forward with other bills that follow the budget bill that are now being held and have sat there since the start of the session. It seems to me that in order to break the logjam of legislation toward the end of the session, waiting another week to go forward on appropriations is completely out of order. I also want to stand in support of the Appropriations Committee and acknowledge the hard work and dedication they have shown. It seems to me that they have put in yeoman effort from the beginning of the session with the long hours and day after day grind of trying to work through this budget. I think they clearly feel comfortable with what they have done. I, too, feel