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committee amendments by their very nature are automatically germane or whether they have to fit the general germaneness rules that other amendments have to meet. This rule change does not address that issue directly, but it comes to play in that this rule is the one which frequently is cited by those advocates who say that our rules indicate that committee amendments are automatically germane. Last year when a question of germaneness of committee amendments came up, I reread this rule, and the...it's a case of where the rule does not comport with practice on the floor. Ever since I've been here it has been viewed as a right of a committee, when it is considering legislation, to take a bill that the committee has, to strike all provisions of that bill and insert other meas...another measure or other measures as they see fit. Technically speaking, they would not be allowed to do this under this rule, because whatever...the way it technically is worded, whatever new bills or bill would be added to the previous bill would have to relate to the original subject matter. What we do in practice is allow committees the ability if, for instance, there is an emergency that comes up to address a school funding issue, and there are no school funding bills before the body, but something has to be done immediately, what we might do is see our Education Committee go into Exec Session, take a bill that it has there, a bill that's been introduced that the committee chose not to act upon, gut that bill and put new subject matter into it. Technically the way the rule is now written that would not be allowed. The practice has been to allow that to take place. This rule change would...would, I think, clarify and codify what the existing practice is, and that is that a committee shall have the ability to strip all provisions out of an existing bill and put another subject into that, that is within the subject of the committee itself but is not necessarily related to the original bill. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Withem, I had stepped out, but I was trying to follow what you said. In essence, or to boil it down to the essence, you're saying that a bill can be stripped in committee, as sometimes we do out here, new contents put into that bill, and then it be advanced with the new material?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.