

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR COORDSEN: ...and mission of selected state agencies, and there's a variety always to choose from and every member of the Legislature would be able to speak to a member of the Program Evaluation Committee and make suggestions for that. That is...that effort is about as far as we can go into measuring the effectiveness of state agencies and making a determination as to whether or not they are complying with the role and mission as spelled out in statute. But we cannot, even in that process, do anything more than evaluate and make suggestions. This body cannot change anything on the other side of the fence other than by law. So, with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker, but if...if the body does indicate an interest in advancing this law...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...I will be back with an amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate? Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 298.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. My concern, Senator Coordsen, to address a couple of your remarks, my concern is that, yes, this could be done without any kind of statutory provision, but that we never have seemed to do it, and I thought that maybe by putting it in statute we would establish a process by which it's done on a regular basis. The other matter that you address I think may have been addressed in the amendment that we offered earlier in the discussion, and if you would take a look at that, you might find that it does address your concerns. When I introduced the bill, the Appropriations Committee, for I believe to every one of its members, came to me and signed onto the bill. And then Senator Engel actually had second thoughts after having talked with Legislative Research and their concern, I think, was that the language of the bill looked as if we might be getting into program evaluation, and that was never my intention, and that's what I explained when I introduced the amendment on the floor. So that may address some of your thoughts on this particular bill and, if not, we'd be happy to visit with you about any further language. Okay? I think we've had a really good