

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 8, 1999

LB 86

is coming through several bills, and I guess I'm going to speak in the broader sense today. We have many A bills or fiscal notes being submitted to lots of bills. And I know in the time frames in which we're at today or in this, many do not want to have an impact fiscally on some of their bills, and so there's a temptation to ignore them, do something else or whatever. This one is a particularly difficult one for me because I don't really know whether it needs to be a large A bill, large fiscal note on this or not. We have a difference of opinion between the Auditor and I suppose Senator Beutler in this case as to whether...what the word "shall" does to this particular amendment. I don't think there's been a fiscal note on yours, has there, Senator Beutler? May I ask Senator Beutler a question?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Beutler, has there been a fiscal note drawn on your amendment when it be going from "may" to "shall"?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't...I don't think so. It normally wouldn't be until the amendment was adopted,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I believe.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, so I...I just don't know whether there's a need or not. I have been told privately that there may be as...a need as many as five more auditors to do this particular function. I do not know that answer and I'm reluctant to make a major switch at this point, especially going out two years. And I guess my instinct would be to wait on this. If we do want to do all audits using the word "shall," which mandates it, let's see how the Auditor Office accommodates what is being done in this original amendment. It's...there is a certain amount of...we have a hearing coming up on the Auditor's Office. Frankly, there's a certain amount of discussion as to how many are going to be needed in that office; what kind of workload they're going to have; whether they're