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FLOOR DEBATE

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Board is to have when it comes to legislation that will come to it for hearing. That language is not designed to be a straitjacket, and it is not a straitjacket. But since it's already in the rules, let me look at what Senator Schimek is giving us. Starting with the new language which is underlined, "The Reference Committee shall refer to," it would say the Executive Board, "only those bills or resolutions which involve the internal operations of the Legislature as a whole." Does performance auditing or performance evaluation relate to a function or activity of the Legislature? Yes. So if a bill is offered that would take that function and place it some place else, is that going to impact on something that pertains to the Legislature? It certainly does, because it's a function being performed by the Legislature now. So anything that is going to impact on that would come to the Executive Board. You cannot escape the appropriate reference of a bill that's going to impact on the operation of the Legislature by assigning an activity to another department or agency of government that does, in fact, impact on the Legislature. Once that impact is shown, it comes to the Executive Board. And there is language in the rules which says that the Executive Board is going to conduct these hearings. If the body decides to change the language, the Executive Board is going to look at each bill and make a determination as to whether it should come to the Executive Board or not. Maybe what we ought to do is say that we will take from the Executive Board the referencing of bills and let them be referenced by the Legislature, functioning as a committee of the whole. Instead of the list of bills with recommended assignments to committees being sent to the Executive Board for referencing, present that list to the entire Legislature and ask any senator, does he or she have an objection to where a particular bill is referenced. All of those where no objection exists, we will take a vote based on a motion to the body that all of these bills on which there is no disagreement shall be referred as recommended, and those are referred. Then we have a debate on each bill where there is a disagreement, and then let the Legislature vote. But if you're going to assign that responsibility to the Executive Board, as long as I'm a member, I am going to discharge my responsibility and take whatever heat goes along with it, but there is a remedy even for that. I am elected by the "carcass" of which I'm a