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discussion of the bill itself, LB 626, advancement to E & R Initial. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the indulgence of the body. I do appreciate the comments that Senator Beutler made. The Program Evaluation Committee did put in a lot of time. They had recommendations that they advanced in a separate bill. And they had some things that they wanted to do that go beyond the scope of what we were doing in LB 626. That's frustrating for the Program Evaluation Committee staff, and it's frustrating for Senator Beutler, who is the current chair. Senator Engel was the chair at the time when the study was being done. So there are two different senators on that committee. Senator Jensen was involved with Health and Human Services in LB 399 and the joint study that we did this last interim. Senator Jensen has concerns about how some of the contracts are let in Health and Human Services, as well as others. And although Senator Vrtiska says that there's a lot of scrutiny and that there's an Executive Order, the Executive Order didn't go into effect until the 20th of December of last year. It's only been in effect for about three months. So the Executive Order was helpful, it was a good thing. But in terms of actually knowing how much money is spent, actually seeing information, we still don't have that. So we really haven't gone very far down this road, other than to say we're going to do something. And am I saying that we shouldn't trust all of the committees? No, I'm not saying that. But I have heard of problems, and there are some things where we're not saving money, and it's costing us more money to contract. And there are probably other examples that we don't know about. I'm not just trying to lay blame, but I'm trying to identify that there is a problem, and that I want to work together to find a solution. And when Senator Baker talks about the Transportation Committee, yes, the green copy, as Senator Schimek identified, does exempt out the transportation contracts. Like Senator Schimek said, they do let other contracts besides the road contracts. And we may not want to have those exempted out. Those are part of the discussions that we need to have. And I appreciate the interest of the committee chairs. Senator Quandahl also talks about the banking issues. And I did meet with some of the representatives from the Department of Banking