

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

January 9, 2004

did you wish to have the remaining minute?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes. Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I would simply urge adoption of the amendment to the permanent rules. Senator Beutler explained it quite well. I really have nothing further to add. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. You've heard the opening on the amendment to the permanent rules adoption. Now open for discussion. There are three lights on: Senator Bourne, Senator Engel, and Senator Bromm. Senator Bourne, on the motion.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I do have a couple of questions regarding this, and I don't know if they should be directed to Senator Beutler or Senator Baker. But as I read this, the Legislative Performance Audit Committee would get four priorities. And the reason I say that is--follow with me, if you would--up there in Rule 3, Section 5, sub (b), it talks about the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, and then down in (c)(iii) it says the Legislative Performance Audit Committee is authorized to hold hearings. Then go down to Rule 5, Section 5, where it talks...in sub (b) it says each Chairperson of those committees which are authorized to hold public hearings--so that would include the Performance Audit Committee--may designate as priority two of the bills referenced to that committee. So already in Rule 5, Section 5, sub (b), the Chairperson of the Legislative Performance Audit Committee could designate two priority bills. So they already have the ability to designate two priority bills. So then you go down to (c) where it says the Legislative Performance Audit Committee may designate as priority bills two bills introduced by the committee or any senator. So as I read the proposed rule change--and maybe I'm reading too much into it--the Chairperson of the Legislative Performance Audit Committee could select two priority bills, and the committee itself could select two bills, for a total of four bills. So I don't know if this is a sticking point or not. I'm not aware of any other committee that can select four bills. And maybe I'm reading too much into this. And I don't know if Senator Baker or Senator Beutler would care to respond, but I think this is kind of unusual that