

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

January 13, 2005

about what's going to happen in three or four years from now, when we have all new people...or, well...yeah, all new people in the Legislature with no historical background on this. Now, for those of you who are new, the Exec Board is the referencing board. They reference all bills. And so they're in the position of referencing things to themselves as they see fit. And they do a good job. I've been on the Exec Board. And I know it's hard, because they have to reference in such a short period of time, over a noonhour; they have only one-liners to go on. And so it's often difficult to reference. And so I believe that we need to think about this a little bit more, and we need that clear definition. There's another sheet that I would like to have handed out--and it already has been, I guess--and that's the blue sheet. And this is the sheet that I asked my staff to prepare for the Rules Committee. And it shows on the first page the bills that went to Exec Board that very clearly involve internal operations. The second sheet talks about bills that were referenced to Exec Board that I believe, and I think some of the Government Committee members in the past have believed, belong within the jurisdiction of the Government Committee. And I would also say to you that by the time you get over to the third page,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...there may be a few bills on that third page that you could certainly argue both ways. I...that's the problem with this; it's not clear as it could be. The only way we could make it clearer is to say no bills should be referenced to the Exec Board except bills that have to do with litigation. I mean, that's the only way I can think of you could make it really clear. Then there are a list of about four other bills on that sheet that talk about some of the bills and resolutions referenced to Exec Board which you could argue about, which could be...or they could go either way. The issues so far this year we've asked to have rereferenced, one is a cemetery issue for veterans. And we just dealt with that last year in Government Committee. It was Senator Paul Hartnett's bill, and you may remember it came to this body. This year, it was referenced to the Exec Board. Second bill was a bill involving county government, which, of course, county government is