

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

January 13, 2005

responsibilities, as Senator Beutler just suggested, for those things that are about the common good of the Legislature? And that should be...should take place only in exceptions, rather than as a matter of rule. If the Executive Committee is going to be a standing committee that on a regular basis hears bills, then I think it needs to be restructured in when it meets and how it meets. And it also needs to...and then we need to look at the referencing function and whether you have this committee, that hears bills, referencing bills to the other committees. And so it just poses some institutional questions for us. And it's not...to me, it's not about the particular instances that have been cited, although it shows a pattern that poses issues for us to determine institutionally whether we want to change the setup. It's not about any particular bills and whether they were referenced to the Government Committee. It's not even really about the Government Committee. It's really about our own structure, and whether it's serving us...it will continue to serve us well, and whether the very committee that is doing...that is making the decision should be...in terms of referencing, should be the referee on questions about their own committee's jurisdiction. And it very well may be that we wish to change the committee structure. And if that's the case, then I really do think that we need to look at when the Executive Board is meeting and whether that is the best...for the public, the best structure, when we have other...the other hearings that we publish to the public that we usually meet at 1:30. And so those are the kinds of things that I really think that we ought to deal with. And it may not be that we choose to deal with it right now. I mean, nobody may be in the mood to take up this amendment. And the amendment may not solve some of the issues that have been raised. And so I would just argue that if we choose not to take up the amendment right now, I really do think that we have to look at the structure of the Executive...the Exec Board, the jurisdiction of the Exec Board, and also whether having a multitude of bills going to the Exec Board and the structure that we have in place makes it easy for the public to participate in some of these issues. And so I would argue, for the future, that we really do need to look at...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.