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no longer an ex-officio member of the commission. Clarifying that the commission has the authority to appoint hearing officers as provided in the Administrative Procedures Act, and that the hearing officer or some other authorized person may administer oaths and affirmations for testimony. And finally, requiring a majority of the commission to vote in determining whether there has been a violation of the act. The current language only requires a majority of members present. So I think, with that, Mr. Chairman, I would ask for the consideration of LR (sic) 242. I think it's a good rewrite. I would be happy to try to answer any questions that people may have. Thank you.

SENATOR KREMER PRESIDING

SENATOR KREMER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Schimek. You are recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendment contains the provisions of LB 74, and you will find that on your gadget, because after adopting it as an amendment to LB 242, the committee killed the bill, so the committee statement is on your computer. LB 74 is Senator Beutler's bill, which the committee heard, and it increases the fees charged for a lobbyist to register. For a lobbyist who receives compensation, in other words, is paid for the job that they do, but did not anticipate...oh, I'm sorry, the fee is increased from \$100 to \$200. It's doubled for each principal. For a lobbyist who receives compensation but did not anticipate receiving it at the time of application for registration, the fee is increased from \$85 to \$185, and that means if a lobbyist started out as a volunteer lobbyist and sometime during the year decided...or is offered a paid job as a lobbyist, then their fee has to go up. The fee for a lobbyist who is not receiving compensation remains at \$15, so that would be your volunteer lobbyist. These fees will be remitted to the State Treasurer, who will give...who will credit 75 percent of the fees back to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission Cash Fund, and 25 percent to the Clerk of the Legislature Cash Fund. And with that, Mr. President, I would yield some of my time to Senator Beutler, if he wishes to address the committee amendment.