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LB 542

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, just to remind you of the amendment in front of you, backing up to Senator Burling's amendment, it is in what I personally consider, at least, to be a very flawed form right now. It's supposed to be a tax policy study that affects all of the individuals in our society, whether they're upper class, middle class, lower class, and it should not be a study that just looks at particular industries or interest sectors, and lets them make the decision for all of the taxpayers in the state. And that's basically what this study would be purporting to do, because it has telecommunications, financial sector, industry and manufacturing, production agriculture, and the education community. Well, there are lots and lots more communities out there than these communities. In fact, this doesn't represent very many people at all, when you're talking...especially when you're talking about tax policies that won't affect just these particular interest groups, but affect the broad cross sector of people in our society. So I think it's terribly flawed in its present form, and in an effort to alleviate that, to some extent anyway, my amendment offers to add two people, a person from organized labor and a person from a low-income advocacy group, because certainly those are...would represent two large sectors that are not at all represented in the grouping right now. So if we're going to have something coming out of this policy committee--I don't know what it is that they're supposed to be doing, but whatever it is they're going to do--if it's going to have any legitimacy whatsoever, it ought to, it ought to include a broad cross section of people. If all we're going to do is consult with two or three industries to see if it's all right with them, well, we can do that without a \$100,000 tax study. They can come in and tell you what tax policies they'd like to see. I'm sure they all have a very good idea of the tax policies they would like to see. So I suggest broadening the committee by those two, in terms of the individuals that the Governor can appoint, and then, to keep the proper balance between the legislative appointees and the Governor's appointees, I'm suggesting you would need to add two members to the group from the legislative group, from the group appointed by the Exec Board. So that's essentially what the amendment would suggest, and I hope it meets with your approval.