

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Executive Board April 30, 2025

**HANSEN:** Good afternoon, and welcome to the Executive Board now. My name is Senator Ben Hansen. I represent the 16th Legislative District, and I serve as chair of the Executive Board. For the purpose of noting attendance, I would ask members of the committee to introduce themselves, starting on my right with Senator Ballard.

**BALLARD:** Beau Ballard, District 21.

**BOSTAR:** Eliot Bostar, District 29.

**FREDRICKSON:** John Fredrickson, District 20.

**JACOBSON:** Mike Jacobson, District 42.

**ARCH:** John Arch, District 14.

**HANSEN:** Also assist-- assisting the committee still is our committee clerk Natalie Schunk, and legal counsel Benson Wallace. So, with that, we'll move to the first item on the agenda, and that is the Speaker major proposals, the two that we have to approve of, and we'll start with LB264, or whichever the Speaker would like to discuss with us.

**ARCH:** OK. Thank you, Senator Hansen. I, I-- Rule 1, Section 17 authorizes the Speaker to designate up to five bills or proposed constitutional amendments each year as a Speaker's major proposal. The designations are limited to bills already designated as a committee or senator priority, or any of the general appropriations bills. The rule also requires approval of, of each Speaker's major proposal designation by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. As my letter indicates, I have designated LB264, the cash transfers bill, and LB261, the mainline appropriations bill, as Speaker's major proposals. I'm asking the Executive Board for approval of these designations. A Speaker's major proposal designation does not allow me to decrease the amount of debate time on a bill, or to disregard any of the amendments or motions filed to a bill. A major proposal designation does, however, allow me to order the amendments and motions to structure debate. While debating and adopting the state's budget is important every year, the debate this year is elevated given the need to address the projected \$260.9 million shortfall. I believe the designation of both of these bills-- the cash fund transfers bill and the mainline budget bill-- as Speakers' major proposals will allow me to order the amendments and thus structure the debate to allow the body to address all of the issues more evenly and fairly than what will happen if we allow the debate to be determined simply by a race to file amendments.

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So, with that, I would ask for your approval, and, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**HANSEN:** All right. Thank you, Speaker Arch. Yes, Senator Fredrickson.

**FREDRICKSON:** Thank you, Chair Hansen. Thank you, Speaker Arch, for bringing this, and for the request. I just had a couple of questions. So, some familiarity-- and I, I could probably read up on this in the Rule Book as well-- but you mentioned the primary functions of the major-- Speaker major proposal would be allowing you the discretion to order amendments as well as motions. I'm assuming that includes priority motions. So, if someone were to, for example, place a priority motion, you would have the discretion on whether or not that would be taken up at that time. Am I understanding that correctly?

**ARCH:** Right. All amendments and motions.

**FREDRICKSON:** OK. And is it-- I've only been here to debate one biennial budget, obviously, in my first biennium here, so this will be the second one. How common is it for Speaker major proposals to be designated for mainline budget bills?

**ARCH:** Good question. So, so went back and did a little bit of research on that. I will, I will tell you, in 2023, that-- it was the last time that I requested-- I was Speaker that year-- last time I requested appropriation bills. And that year, I requested all five.

**FREDRICKSON:** Mm-hmm.

**ARCH:** We were-- that-- we were-- was the filibuster year, as we can recall. And, and I wanted to make sure that-- again, the one constitutional requirement we have is the passing of the budget. I wanted make sure. This year, I don't-- I, I mean, I, I do-- I am concerned about the two main budget bills, and because-- I, I just want to make sure that if-- that, that those amendments that may come that give us an opportunity to close that budget gap, make sure those get up for debate. And-- now, I will tell you, in 2023, I remember that probably wasn't necessary to have Speaker major proposals on those because we, we got through, I think, all the amendments on those bills.

**FREDRICKSON:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**ARCH:** And so-- but this is more of a precautionary issue so we, we can fulfill our constitutional duty.

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**FREDRICKSON:** OK. Thank you.

**HANSEN:** Senator Bostar.

**BOSTAR:** Thank you, Chair. I, I think-- so, thinking back two years ago, I think we were able to get through all the amendments because it was a Speaker major proposal.

**ARCH:** Well, that's--

**BOSTAR:** I think, I think the designation had an impact on behavior because the knowledge that they could be ordered in any way kept efforts of, of preventing amendments from coming up. Sort of it, it, it made that moot. Therefore, I think it-- we were actually able to hear all of the potential amendments that came up, so.

**ARCH:** That's very possible. It's hard to, hard to know for sure, but very possible.

**HANSEN:** Any other questions? Senator Jacobson?

**JACOBSON:** I, I would move the proposal.

**HANSEN:** OK, well--

**BOSTAR:** Are they individual--

**HANSEN:** We're going to-- we're going to vote on them individually, yep. So--

**BOSTAR:** Move to designate LB264 as Speaker major proposal.

**JACOBSON:** Second.

**HANSEN:** All right. There's been a motion and a second for LB264. We'll do roll call vote.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Ibach?

**IBACH:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Speaker Arch?

**ARCH:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Ballard?

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**BALLARD:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Bostar?

**BOSTAR:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Fredrickson?

**FREDRICKSON:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Jacobson?

**JACOBSON:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Hansen?

**HANSEN:** Yes, and we will keep the vote open to the end of today. Make sure--

**JACOBSON:** And this does need a, a major-- or it's-- simple majority.

**ARCH:** Two-thirds.

**HANSEN:** We need six.

**ARCH:** Two-thirds.

**JACOBSON:** Yeah, two-thirds.

**BOSTAR:** Move to make the-- designate LB261 Speaker major proposal.

**JACOBSON:** Second.

**HANSEN:** Been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Roll call vote.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Speaker Arch?

**ARCH:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Ballard?

**BALLARD:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Bostar?

**BOSTAR:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Fredrickson?

**FREDRICKSON:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Jacobson?

**JACOBSON:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Ibach?

**IBACH:** Yes.

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Senator Hansen?

**HANSEN:** Yes. All right, well that takes care of the Speaker major proposals. Thank you, Speaker Arch. And we have one more thing on the agenda, and that's to do with-- we have to approve of the international travel expense reimbursement request by Senator Jana Hughes and Senator Tony Sorrentino. They're leaving our country, and they would like for us to approve of it. [INAUDIBLE] there was any discussion about it. They're both going to Canada. OK. I'll entertain a motion.

**BALLARD:** So moved.

**FREDRICKSON:** Second.

**HANSEN:** Been a motion and a second to approve the international travel expense reimbursement request by Senator Hughes and Senator Sorrentino. Do we have to roll call on that one?

**NATALIE SCHUNK:** Uh-uh.

**HANSEN:** All those in favor, say aye. All right. All those opposed, say nay. All right. Entertain a motion.

**BOSTAR:** Move to adjourn.

**FREDRICKSON:** Second.

**HANSEN:** Motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye. Thank you.