

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board June 2, 2025

HANSEN: Now, we'll move into Executive Board stuff here. Put this stuff away-- OK. Good morning again, and welcome to the Executive Board. 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 the members of the committee to introduce themselves again, starting on my far right with Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Rob Clements, District 2.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

IBACH: Teresa Ibach, District 44.

DORN: Myron Dorn, District 30.

FREDRICKSON: John Fredrickson, District 20.

ARCH: John Arch, District 14.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Natalie Schunk, and our legal counsel, Benson Wallace. So, again, with the first item on the agenda for the Executive Board, Speaker Arch, did you want to kind of touch a little bit on kind of what the, the first thing that we have to do as an Executive Board?

ARCH: Sure. As a result of the passing of LB298 last week, we're now-- with an e-clause, we need to move to form the new exec-- the, the new oversight committee. And so, there are four members at large from, from the senators that are appointed to the legislative oversight. My recommendation is that, is that, for continuity, we, we attempt to morph our Performance Audit Committee-- because it goes away-- into the new Legislative Oversight Committee. So, you see here that there's a list of who's on the Performance Audit Committee now, and it's, it's the chair of, of the Board here, it's the Speaker, it's the, the chair of Appropriations, and then there's four at-large. And these four at-large, I would recommend just rolling over to the new Legislative Oversight [INAUDIBLE].

HANSEN: OK, any discussion? OK. Well, then I would entertain a motion.

JACOBSON: So moved.

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BALLARD: I'll second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion to appoint Senator Dorn, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Senator Jacobson, and Senator Riepe to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, the four at-large positions. Roll call.

DORN: To the Performance Audit, or to the special--

HANSEN: Yes. Yeah, the Legislative Oversight Committee. Sorry.

NATALIE SCHUNK: OK. Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right. And just briefly here, we now kind of-- I think my role as the Exec Board chair now is to appoint an interim director for the Division of Legislative Oversight. And we did have a couple requests; one from Stephanie Meese, who's currently director of Legislative Audit office, and then Jennifer Carter as well. So, we're going to be kind of going through those and making a decision here. I

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just wanted to bring it up to the board to see if there's any discussion at all, make sure I'm not missing any opinions or concerns at all from anybody. OK.

ARCH: The only thing I would, I would add is that this is an interim director position. So, it really-- it, it, it, it really is for this summer because, come January, the Legislative Oversight Committee will be opening up applications for this position, and they will-- they'll be interviewing, and then they will make a recommendation to the Legislature. And as we select our public counsel with two-thirds majority vote, this will require a two-thirds majority vote as well of the body. So, this is, this is an acting position, and, and so, we will have a, a full search and full opening up of that position during the, during the interim so that we're ready for January.

HANSEN: And, and we'll get, we'll get that figured out by the end of the day, so. And then we can kind of get the whole process going of the-- looking at a permanent director. Yes?

CLEMENTS: And how is the chair of this committee selected?

ARCH: The chair of the committee will be selected by the committee. So, I, I spoke with Senator Dorn this morning; he is going to call a meeting of this Legislative Oversight Committee immediately upon recess this morning before the, you know, when, when we break for the lunch hour. And then, a chair and vice chair can be selected at that point so that-- and then we can talk about the different duties that the committee has, and what has to be done over the interim to get ready.

CLEMENTS: OK.

HANSEN: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: So, for the interim director, is that something that we select as the Exec Board, or this is committee--

HANSEN: The, the chairperson of the Executive Board does. Just the interim part, yep.

FREDRICKSON: Got it.

HANSEN: And then, the more-- the--

ARCH: And then, the Oversight Committee will do the interview and make recommendations to the body.

FREDRICKSON: For the permanent.

ARCH: For the permanent.

FREDRICKSON: [INAUDIBLE]. Got it.

HANSEN: OK. All right. Well, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

JACOBSON: So moved.

HANSEN: There's a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.