

Legislature...

PRESIDENT: May we have order, please. (Gavel.) Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm just a little bit concerned about the procedure we are using. Senator Warner, I'd ask you a couple of questions, if I may. Is LB 564 a priority bill?

SENATOR WARNER: No, Senator, 564 is similar to a number of bills over the years that have been put in with the appropriation bills where there was a fee increase necessary in order to provide funding for the particular agency. It was...many times those bills have emanated...come from the Performance Review and Audit Committee, but it was referenced to the Government Committee, which was fine, but it is an intricate part of the budget. Many times those fee bills have come out of Appropriations because they were necessary in order to fund the budget.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, arguably I suppose any bill that deals with revenues or appropriations...are you making the argument that that bill has priority by virtue of being an Appropriation's bill then, simply because it has an effect on revenues or on expenditures?

SENATOR WARNER: I guess the only argument I would be making, Senator Beutler, would be two. One was that customarily this practice has been done because it was considered an intricate part of the appropriation where fees were involved.

SENATOR BEUTLER: This doesn't appropriate any money, though, does it?

SENATOR WARNER: No, but it provides the money for the agency that funds the budget that is authorized.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It is a revenue bill then.

SENATOR WARNER: It's a fee...revenue, that's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner. I guess maybe it causes me to think about our rules again. I guess I really don't consider this an appropriations bill. I don't want to make a big point out of it, but I think that