

March 22, 1985

Legislature, I had passed out an introducer's statement of intent that I forgot to put the request number on it, but as the Clerk has indicated, it should be 0228. The reason I am requesting the introduction or suspension of the rule in order to introduce the bill, the Supreme Court came down with decisions this morning indicating that the Commission of Industrial Relations did, in fact, have authority to negotiate or to establish, rather, salary wages for state employees. I had had a bill drafted last year that would have affected that in that those decisions by the Commission would not take effect unless approved by the Legislature, which at that point the Legislature could appropriate additional money or just increase the personal service limitations to accommodate the increase if necessary or, in fact, could do nothing and turn it down. I think the issue is of sufficient significance that the legislation ought to be introduced. The bill was prepared, as I said, but had not introduced it, not knowing what the Supreme Court would do. In their decision it indicates that what may be a proper recourse available to petitioners or permissible response by the Legislature to the order of the CIR establishing wages for agency or department employees are matters not presently before the court, as a matter of fact neither do we have a policy by statute that the Legislature has addressed. So I would request that while the issue...I probably could raise the issue on some bill by amendment, I think it is an important issue, it deserves a hearing. It ought to be considered this year if possible. I have talked with Senator Barrett. The bill I would anticipate would be referred to the Business and Labor Committee and the Chairman of the Exec Board, Senator Beutler, has indicated that it could probably be referred today so that the bill could be printed. So I would ask for suspension of the rule to permit the introduction of the bill so it can be printed and that a hearing can be held and a policy change considered by the Legislature should they choose to do so.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, please.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Warner's motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of introducing this particular bill. It is true that the Business and Labor Committee looked at this issue last year, did indefinitely postpone a bill feeling that it was not necessary. But in light of the Supreme Court decision which came down this morning, I think