

The bill was first read on January 17 of last year, referred to the Appropriations Committee, advanced to General File.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 258 was introduced and permits a biennial budget, not a biennial session, would permit commencing in 1987 for the Legislature to adopt the budget for two years. Through the entire period that particular group of senators taking office in January of '87 would be in office, and the philosophy behind that is that every two year period is when you would essentially be making policy decisions as it is reflected in the budget, it would be my anticipation that you would still have some annual review of budgets in light of inflationary or deflationary impacts upon the cost, but on a programmatic basis, you would essentially only be making adjustments on a biennial basis. A number of reasons to do it, not the least of which are I suspect literally thousands of dollars and hours now spent by agencies in developing annual budgets which they could reduce a great deal, and the only thing we would be addressing in the even-number years is what change might be appropriate because of inflation or deflation types of issues or revenue issues which...or revenue shortfall which might create a problem, but in normal times if there is such a thing, that has not occurred except with some frequency in the last few years. But I do think we that it would provide a much better opportunity. What I would anticipate that the Appropriations Committee would be doing, particularly in those even-number years, is a lot more in depth review and preparation for the following legislative session, really more in depth review of some programs than what is sometimes possible in the short session. It is a concept. I know some people have concern about it. I think it would be a much more orderly presentation of budget policy issues when it could be done on a biennial basis rather than as we do now starting from scratch every time. It does not preclude to make those adjustments but it would give far greater continuity to programmatic changes normally than is possible with annual budgets.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please. Before you speak, Senator Wesely, Senator Beutler has a kill motion on this. Is anybody authorized to...Vard Johnson. Excuse me. I am sorry I misspoke. It is Senator Vard Johnson's motion, not