

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do. Senator Beutler and Senator Warner were discussing some issues that do deserve some examination, and those are the areas of court reporters doing work that they are not required to do. The issues that I speak of are work that they are required to do in the areas of preparing these transcripts and appeals. The law says, and if you look on page 2 of LB 37, starting on line 10, the court reporter shall prepare a transcript. This has always been the case, that they don't have a choice. If there is an appeal filed, they must do the work. The key is how are they compensated for doing that work. That is where LB 37 comes into effect, raising the fee from a per hundred word computation into a per page fee. Quite frankly, they prepare it by the page right now because nobody counts words. They count the number of pages, divide by 250, and off they go. This would raise the fee from roughly \$1.87 to \$2.75 per page for preparation cost, a cost that hasn't been increased in the last 13 years. I think that it is a modest increase. In committee, we did do some negotiating with the cost of copies, and we backed that down and the committee felt that that was a reasonable compromise for the copies. There hasn't been a lot of discussion about that this morning. I would urge the body to adopt LB 87 (sic) and move it on to E & R Initial. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard Senator Kristensen's closing. We will now proceed to a vote on the advancement of LB 37. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 37.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 37 is advanced. We'll now proceed to LB 17.

CLERK: LB 17 was a bill introduced by Senator Withem and Baack. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year. It was referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government Committee. (See AM0030 found on page 421 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Conway, Chair of the Government Committee. Senator Withem, could...I do not see Senator Conway,