

February 5, 1991 LB 22

Legislature assigned to them. Senator Coordsen, I'm not really familiar with your bill but I commend you for what you've done. I think you're on the right track. I just hope that we find a number of Standing Committees which will take it to heart and really follow up on your bill. I think you will find that it will do much more, much more than we expect. You'll probably do more by accident than you will by direct action because there will be agencies that will not enact certain types of rules and regs just because they know they're going to have to stand in front of some committee and answer for that action. I remember when Senator Duis had a similar responsibility, the Administrative Rules Committee, and it was more effective than we thought it would be. I think this can be also.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We do have an amendment to the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill. (The Beutler amendment appears on page 552 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, just a quick but small but I think important subject for you to consider. The bill, as it stands now, would allow the chairman of a committee alone to make the decision to present at a public hearing a legislative position and this amendment would change it so that the Standing Committee, as a whole, a majority of the Standing Committee would make the decision to present something at a public hearing which purports to be legislative intent. And, for myself, I would hope that most of the time I would agree with the committee chairman. On the other hand, I don't think...I'm not sure one committee should be deciding what legislative intent is, to start with, because legislative intent is expressed by the whole body, not just by one Standing Committee regardless of the relationship of that committee to the subject matter. But, beyond that question, if you're going to have a committee expressing legislative intent, then at least it should be a majority of the committee and not just one person. I mean, it seems to me we're getting ourself into a position where one out of 49 is saying what the legislative intent is on a particular proposition and I don't think that that's a particularly good situation.