SCOPE & OBJECT RULING:
AMENDMENT #115 TO SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5533
(March 7, 2017)

In ruling upon the point of order raised by Senator Liias on the scope and object of Substitute Senate Bill 5533, the President finds and rules as follows:

Substitute Senate Bill 5533 prohibits entities who collectively bargain with the governor from making campaign contributions in support of or opposition to a gubernatorial candidate. The scope of the bill – defining collective bargaining and prohibiting gubernatorial campaign expenditures from entities who collectively bargain with the governor – is narrow and specific. However, the object, or aim of the bill appears to be broader. Its purpose is to prevent a “pay to play” scenario.

The amendment prohibits campaign contributions by anyone having business before an agency headed by any statewide elected executive officer, and prohibits the receipt of contributions by those agency heads.

This seems to fit within the bill’s object to prevent “pay to play;” however, by adding other individuals and entities who do not engage in collective bargaining to the list of those who are prohibited from contributing to certain campaigns, and by adding campaigns other than gubernatorial campaigns to the list of those prohibited from receiving contributions from certain entities, the amendment exceeds the scope of the bill.

The President would like to take this opportunity to remind the members that it is much more difficult to find an amendment within the scope and object of a bill if the bill is drafted narrowly. For example, if this bill had provided three groups who were prohibited from contributing or receiving contributions, the addition of another
group would likely have been within the scope, as one could then define the scope more broadly as a bill about who may make and receive campaign contributions.

For these reasons, the President finds that the amendment would change the scope of the bill, and the amendment is therefore out of order.