

currently have, and why do I bring this amendment, because I don't amend the budget very often? It's a difficult process, and I only offer them if I firmly believe that they are necessary, because money is tight. You've got, right now you've got a system, I think Senator Crosby said it's a Wang system, that doesn't even integrate with the state system. So, in other words, you can't cross over, you can't cross-check, you can't tie in, it's just not...the capability isn't there and it's over six years old. You've got 50 audit staff that are in the field, function on a day-to-day basis. They have three personal computers that they have to come back to the office and use, when they can get on them. In addition to that, they have to use them for spread sheets and other interoffice kinds of work responsibilities, that they're all clamoring to get on at the same time. You have 50 people, plus your support staff that are using these three computers, and we're saying that we're functioning in a fine capability. I disagree. I think with this amendment we can update that office, we can get it in shape, because unless you do that, unless you adopt this amendment, you cannot make a valid decision with regard to performance audit, because what you're doing is you're denying the office of the auditor even the possibility of ever functioning to that capability, should we make that decision. So if you don't make this first step, you're not even...you're not even going to consider, in my opinion, ever using the auditor for that, because they're not capable of doing it. They currently are having trouble meeting their responsibilities right now, and the vast majority of that reason is because they don't have the technical ability to keep up to date. You got 50 people who are auditing folks out there, and they've got three PCs to work on when they come home to the office to put the spread sheets and the other information on. Just can't get it done with that, ladies and gentlemen, and we can't expect them to. I think the Appropriations Committee has dealt very fairly with the auditor's office. No way do I...I want to stress that. But the fact of the matter is we need to do more. That's all this amendment does, tries to do a little more, says we're going to give them the capability they need. We do that through this amendment. I would urge adoption of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard Senator Hall's closing on the amendment. We will now vote on the amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Senator Hall.