

Military Affairs Committee is to search for efficiencies in state government in two ways. One way is to establish or to reestablish the suggestion box idea, a concept that was part of the Thone administration which proved to be a significant savings discoverer. As a matter of fact, we found \$400,000 of savings through the course of the Thone administration using the suggestion box idea. And the second portion is a change in our personnel rules which say that employees that make allegations of waste, fraud and abuse, unlawful activity in state government, have a presumption that should they be visited with a personnel disciplinary action thereafter, it would be in retaliation for that and that they have the rights to have their personnel disciplinary procedures reviewed, and that there is basically an antiretaliation provision in our statutes should state personnel take advantage of the reporting mechanism and the investigation mechanism in LB 249. The bill and the amendment would have an A bill attached, it's roughly about \$35,000, and this constitutes not only the recreation of the suggestion box which will be funded out of the normal budgets of the department but also for a person in the Ombudsman's office to assist with the investigation of claims of wrongdoing or the inappropriate use of state resources. The triggering mechanism can be discovered, if you're looking in your red copy, your green copy found in the red-covered books, is on page 3 of the green copy, wrongdoing shall include any action by an agency or employee which is in violation of a law, results in gross mismanagement or gross waste of funds, or creates a substantial or specific danger to public health or safety or the like. For the most part, the bill recounts or the amendment recounts the investigatory method that the Ombudsman will use. This involves a confidential allegation, a confidential investigation. If you find what we in the legal field would call probable cause, in other words, a legitimate basis for the complaint, then it goes into a more public format for the investigation of the wrongdoing, and there are also sanctions should an employee attempt to adopt this mechanism for frivolous purposes. Intentional misuses of this act are themselves a form of personal rule violation, if you will, and the amendment generally seeks to accomplish the same goal as LB 44, which is to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The underlying theory is that if you want to discover the misuse of state funds, the people to ask are the people in the front line. Why do they not come forward? They don't come forward because they fear retaliation from management, and I don't know about you, but I've been here long enough to have people call me up and say, my