

their pitch, make their pitch, and if it's the...whether or not it's the lowest bid, but if it's a bid over the long haul that's going to be the most effective for the state, they can do that. And the fact is now, as I said, tens of millions of dollars in contracts are signed every year, there is no oversight whatsoever. This would bring the competitive bidding process, run it through DAS, now DAS does not make the decision, they'd still make the decision, but they go through the process like they do on durable goods right now, but they apply it to services as well. You know the fact is 20 years ago there weren't that many services and the major purchases of the state were cars and trucks and roads and bridges and things like that. In this day and age there's a lot of things that don't come under our old competitive bidding statute. This broadens it significantly. And as I mentioned with the committee amendments, as originally introduced, the bill would have set that at anything over \$10,000 would have had to have been competitively bid. The committee amendments raise it to \$15,000. In addition to the things that were exempted out in the committee amendments, there already were some exceptions to the bidding process in the bill; one, obviously the construction of any building or bridge, those things are covered already basically. Any service that already is a current statutory guidelines, there are some services that the Legislature has already seen fit to put requirements in statute. If those already exist, those existing statutes supersede anything in this bill. And thirdly, services related to furnishing or improving state-owned buildings, once again, particularly with a bill we passed a couple of years ago that brought more things in under the authority of DAS when we're doing some renovation and stuff like that, that's pretty well all taken care of. But the thrust of the bill is agencies now have, although they may have oversight, obviously there is oversight in the administration, ultimately there may be oversight in the Legislature when we approve their budget or if there is...if it's an agency that has a commission, may be some oversight there, there is no uniform requirement that we understand and this, as I said, broadens significantly what is included in our competitive bidding statute. It includes a lot of things that are not now included and you may hear from agencies or you may hear from private sectors, probably those private sector individuals with the contract are the ones that are likely to oppose it, there is some concerns there. So I want to make sure everybody is aware of that. I think it makes some sense, certainly the Appropriations Committee does. The administration does to a