

supervision seems to me to be a very positive thing that they did and again it was one agency looking at another agency and I doubt as a code agency they would have felt the ability to do what they did. So what I am saying to you is that...and I could go on probably from there and talk about other examples. Their independent status, I know that there are some problems that can be cited that people will talk about that maybe will cause you some concern. But there are also benefits to that independent status and I guess we have to take the good with the bad, and with the bad there are things that we can do to deal with those problems short of making it a code agency that I think take care of those particular problems. At the hearing on this bill, time and again I would ask, what are the problems that you identified with the Department? Infrequently did I hear any problems cited, and when a particular problem was cited, I felt that in each case that I heard we could have dealt with it with a particular bill dealing with that particular problem, or through the Governor's oversight or the Legislature's oversight we could have stepped in in a more informal fashion and saw to it that that problem was corrected. It seemed to me time and again that this step which is to change totally the Health Department and make it a code agency was far too large a step to take and one that was not necessary in light of the other alternatives that we have. The Task Force on Reorganization was what recommended this change, and I supported the effort to look at state government, but the Task Force, I thought, was primarily to look at how can they save tax dollars, what can they do about efficiency in government? And quite frankly, I don't see the tax savings with this change. I see this as an increase in the Governor's powers. I see it as the Governor gaining more authority and I think that seems to be what more of the focus of a lot of those Task Force recommendations were instead of what I thought they were going to do which was to save tax dollars. That's what we are really interested in. This isn't going to save any tax dollars I don't think, and, in fact, by taking away the independent status of the Health Department you take away a real vocal advocate on behalf of consumers, a department which has spoken out time and again on behalf of consumers and save them tax dollars...not tax dollars particularly so much as their own dollars by making sure that they get health care treatment that is quality and at a price that they can afford, and I think that is a positive thing that they have done again. I think that it also ought to be noted that there are some concerns that the Governor's interest in this is so acute that there was some vote