

disclosure because there you have accountability that I think would lead to the sort of standards and justifiable decision making that you would want to see in making an important decision like that. On the other side of the coin, you do have the protection of individual privacy and those sort of things, but as public employees you would have to argue that the public taxpayer has precedent in that particular issue. It also gets back to the issue Senator Landis and I introduced from time to time on whistle-blowers, where the other side of the coin is of getting bonuses for being a good and faithful employee is the difficulties you get if you're not, if you speak out. And the whistle-blower legislation that we tried to pass year in and year out which always failed also tried to recognize that employees have the right, they think, to speak out as individuals and perhaps not receive either loss of job or punishment as a result of trying to speak out as individuals for what they believe is the truth. But, unfortunately, that legislation has languished. So I think getting into this issue is not bad. I think it's a good discussion, it's a worthwhile discussion. I think Senator McFarland has brought an important issue and I, for one, have had great concerns about some activities over in the Revenue Department and it would be good to bring this out in the open and whether you want to proceed and adopt the resolution, which I would be willing to do today, or whether you want to have a further study and hearing on it, it makes no difference to me, particularly, but I think, again, Senator McFarland is absolutely correct to raise the issue. It's an important issue and I hope we will not ignore it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, followed by Senator McFarland and Senator Lynch.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my preference is to indefinitely postpone the resolution. But I guess I'm willing to also have it referred to a committee to look at the statutory provisions as to what they might be, as well as if, in fact, it's to be a policy change or if there is no clear statute for policy then, obviously, it ought to be addressed in law and not by resolution. As I understand, the system has been in effect for a good number of years and which bonus, I thought it was 5 percent, is by statute up to...or by rules and regs rather up to 10 percent, but that 10 percent does not go in the base and it cannot exceed 7.5 percent of the base. And then there is merit pay which also is similar and has been in effect for a great many years which