

that's listed on 2032 of the Journal is really nothing more than a change in the budget numbers. This is not intent language, as Senator Withem's amendment was. It is a substantive change. It does add dollars to the budget. It adds approximately, I think, \$220...excuse me, 214 to 225 thousand dollars, over a two-year period, to the state auditor's budget. I had conversations with the auditor, Mr. Breslow had asked me to bring in an amendment to the budget that would have increased the number of full-time employees that were staffed...housed with the auditor's office. I was not exactly comfortable with that, because it was an ongoing cost, a built in cost to the budget over a number of years. The...And, basically, my comments were, go back to the drawing board, and they did. They came back with a proposal that was for updating and implementing a number of technical changes, basically adding computers, laptop PCs, printers, and other types of software capability that the auditor's office is currently in dire need of. The fact that they would be able to, through a one-time expenditure, this being about \$225,000, be able to purchase this equipment, there would be, I know, a considerable savings, time savings for their staff, which would allow for the...basically the staff that they currently have to operate more efficiently, and to, the estimate is probably about a third more efficiently, so they would be...the ability to do more audits, to do more work out there in the field. This would also include some word processing capability, some letter quality printers, and the, again, licenses for the software that would be used and the PCs. You've had handed out to you, I think, by now the request details that I've initialed at the top. And there is a complete summary of what the amendment would do. The reason for offering this amendment is because I think it makes a lot of sense. I know that just from secondhand, there was much discussion when the auditor's budget was before the Appropriations Committee. And I'll let Senator Moore, whoever is going to handle this amendment, expound on that. But the fact of the matter is that there isn't enough manpower, and there isn't enough time, and there isn't enough technical assistance in that office to do the, I guess, audits that we had expected. I know there was a lot of discussion on the 4 percent lid compliance reviews. Basically, what the auditor was saying is that we are only capable of doing some spot checking of approximately 10 to 15, 20 if we're lucky, percent of those subdivisions are we able to look at. And that was not something that was, I think, met with a lot of encouragement by the, at least a few members of the Appropriations Committee. This amendment...this increase of