

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Our next speaker is Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, not a whole lot more because it's probably already been in the discussion, but a couple things needs to be reiterated and stated once again before we end this discussion is that, you know, it was not the Appropriations Committee that, by choice, tied the computer issue with the performance issue. That was the state auditor when he came before our committee, and when pushed, you know, on these computers kind of make sense, but would the savings go towards greater efficiency in the office, would they go towards making that bid more effective in the county audit, will they simply go to greater office efficiency, and the state auditor replied, no, they wouldn't, because they'd go toward performance audits, because that was his top priority. And, yes, I think State Auditor Breslow, as he continues to find himself more comfortable with his office, would like to take some of those things said back that day, but, nevertheless, I think if you go back and ask him, he will still say that he wants to do those performance audits and would like this money to do it. And so, unfortunately, if it was just a computer issue, Senator Hall, I would still try and oppose you on the financial argument, but my argument would not be as good, quite honestly. But I would still feel comfortable in voting no on that. We're beyond the financial considerations. We're talking about, to a degree, how this body is going to do performance audits, and how we are going to improve them. Maybe we need a little history lesson here is that in the mid-seventies, that the Legislature struck the power of the auditor to do this. At that time the Performance Review and Audit Committee was created by the Legislature; basically, that is the Appropriations Committee, plus the Speaker, plus the Standing Committee Chair of interest, that is, the Performance Review and Audit Committee really has not met for a number of years, basically, since the whole issue of sunset language ran its course in the early eighties. Since that time that performance function has, indeed, been lacking in state government, and it certainly is my desire to do more about that. But the problem is this, I think you've heard other members of the body reference...Senator Warner, I wish he was here to talk about it himself, but should this be a function of the state auditor, should it be a function of the State Legislature, or some independent agency? For those of you that had a chance during the AOL meetings, when we had the legislative audit