

other states if you have someone like an auditor do performance audits? And their comeback to the joint committee was, that is the worst thing you could do. We have found that is not a good experience for states that have done that, and that's nothing against our current state auditor, that's just people giving feedback to our group saying that makes it much more potentially suspect to be political. The Executive Board is, at this point, talking about how is the best way to get the performance audits in the State of Nebraska. And they are going to have an interim study. They are going to be talking about it, to my knowledge, over the summer, about what is the best way to do so, and there is some consensus beginning to build that Legislative Research might or should be the area for that. To vote for the Hall amendment now, basically, says we're going to start our state auditor going in one direction, beginning...the possibilities of beginning performance audits, to me undermining what it is that we need to do, and that is what is the best policy for the State of Nebraska. The best policy for Nebraska is going to be worked out during the summer. We are going to have some sort of performance audit. The question is, what is in the best interests of Nebraskans, and I think it's going to be over in Legislative Research, at some point. And I don't think the Legislature wants to get off on a tangent on the guise of we're just doing efficiency, because this is not a debate about efficiency and computers. This is performance audits, who should do it, what is the best way, do we want it in a political environment, or not political environment. I say, if you're doing performance audits, it needs to be in the less political environment possible. This amendment does not do that. I wholeheartedly oppose the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, the argument here and the debate has been somewhat extensive. I would suggest that perhaps Mr. Breslow, speaking about auditing the various agencies, has already saved far more money than this equipment will cost. I think there are a number of agencies that are somewhat apprehensive. And I can understand that apprehension. But the facts are that we do not have the kind of performance review that we should have. Senator Moore pointed out what was supposed to be there. And I recall when we did it. The facts