

evaluation. The purpose is, of course, that a legislative branch of government has a vehicle in which they are reviewing the various programs or agencies that have been established by law and whether or not the intent of those programs, in fact, are being carried out by the agency but, more importantly, whether or not the purpose and the accomplishment and the public service that was intended to occur is, in fact, happening, whether or not it should be changed or redirected. In many respects, it is an extension of the appropriation process that we go through periodic...every session, but this would give periodic opportunity to go in greater depth than perhaps is sometimes possible within the appropriation process. It was very apparent to me during the years that we did the sunset legislation that...to have the staff in Fiscal Office also doing this job. Was not one that was the most desirable way to have it accomplished. It takes a great deal of time and staff that has other responsibilities which, as we become closer to sessions and evaluating budget requests that created time problems and, while a great deal of effort and time was spent on those evaluations that were done, it was apparent that it had some difficulties and we ought to look for some other approach other than what was established back in the middle seventies. It became possible, it appeared to me, when we were looking at reorganizing the Research Department earlier last year that it was an ideal time to consider relocating this program review unit and make it a part of the Research Office, which of course is what the legislation in essence does. It establishes, as I indicated, a legislative committee composed of five people who would make selections as to what particular programs would be evaluated. There's a very close relationship between the Appropriations Committee and the Fiscal Office in the identifying of particular programs or agencies that will be reviewed, but it also provides a process where any legislator could make suggestions. There is a very specific outline contained in the law of the process that will be followed, a very specific process that is to be used for the selection of projects, and all of these gives a structure, I believe, that would be beneficial. I think it's particularly important that these remain as a legislative function because it also, as I indicated, other Standing Committees may well have a variety of programs that they're looking at in the normal process and there's no point in having duplication of functions in these kinds of areas, so that the need to have it as a legislative function becomes very, very important and, as is done virtually in the great majority of the states, it's also important to have