

that final review, so there's a tie back to the Standing Committee.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Warner, you're next, followed by Senator Wesely, Moore, Bernard-Stevens, Schimek and Hall.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose the amendment and it's one of these issues that are a little difficult because there's an assumption sometimes that I've picked up that there is some sort of a conflict with the State Auditor and the legislation or one or the other brought about the bill. I want to make it very clear that this is something that was worked on for a long time. There was a legislative...the Research Office did a study last summer before the bill was introduced this year, copies of which was given to you, I believe last December, as I recall, and Senator Schimek had indicated, I met with her and the State Auditor the other day, my position is, and I would hope it would be the Legislature's, that legislative oversight is a legislative function. I believe very strongly that that's the case. Most of the national organizations that we belonged to have separate units which are programs frequently on program evaluation. Legislative oversight has been recognized as a long time as a very important function for the legislative branch because it's reviewing policies that previous Legislatures have established and in a very formal way and, by the way, some of these program evaluations are not necessarily going to come up with something wrong. They can come up just as logical with conclusions that what has been done is very good. There have been positions held open in the Research Office to provide the research people or, as you say, the staff people for this evaluation so that there is no need to hire additional people to do it. Those positions are there. In fact, one person is on-board and has been for some time and did some of the work on the study as it was...after it was nearly completed. But, to me, it's a very basic issue and that is one that it's a legislative function, not an executive branch of government function. It's the Legislature reviewing the policies that past Legislatures have established and it, to me, is just is simply not appropriate to put a mix of executive branch and legislative branch and in a sense, a competitive system to review or to do performance audits and I would strongly oppose the amendment and