

working papers that are allowable under the pub...that we can't...that we do have access to under the Public Records Law, we still will have access to, and any other working papers you can seal off from the public. So that's what this amendment would do. It's narrowing the scope of the bill. I have several other amendments pending, one that would narrow it to just the Legislature and several other amendments on specific language in the bill to try to correct some of the language in the bill. I'm very concerned that we're sealing off records that I think should remain public. I think it's a matter of accountability, we are elected officials, we are working for the public and I don't feel it's in our best interest and in the public's best interest to appear that we are sealing off all of our records from public scrutiny. They should be allowed to look at our records. We already have addressed the confidentiality area of our telephone records. We already have a way to keep telephone calls that we want held confidential, confidential, and the auditor has said all along that he will keep those confidential and has done so. So we already have done that. To me this is going way beyond what needs to be done and including a lot of areas of government that I don't think should be included, so I would hope that you would support my amendment in narrowing the scope of this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I again rise in opposition to Senator Witek's amendment as it's found on page 1534 of the Journal. What we are doing with this proposal and the bill is we are saying that there are currently records that are not public records. And if you read the Attorney General's opinion, what the Attorney General said is that once those nonpublic records go to the auditor they lose that exempt status. What we are doing through the bill, through the process is basically following the lead that the Attorney General gave us in terms of saying, look, sorry, but once they slide over to the auditor, working papers and all, they become public...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: (Gavel.) Could we have order please. It is very difficult to hear the speaker. If we could carry on conversations to the side, Senators, and those on the sides if we could keep it down we'd much appreciate it. Senator Hall

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I rise in