have lost their exempt status. But that, in effect, is what the Attorney General's Opinion stated. In order to correct that, in order to live up to Judge Blue's ruling in a lawsuit that was basically a split decision, we gave over our records, we had the ability to exclude some that were sensitive, confidential in nature or investigatory. We provided for the change in statute. This goes along with that. This does nothing more than say that those working papers are exempt as well, that by changing water into ice you don't somehow change the fact that the underlying substance is still water. When you have an exempt record that's exempt, no matter what form or in whose possession...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...it happens to be. Again, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Hall, yours is the next light. Senator Hall waives. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: That's nice that Senator Hall could read to you those Sections 84-712.05 cover. But if you'll read on page 6 of the bill in Section 5, he exempts this...these...this area from any of those public record sections. It reads, all final audit reports issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts shall be maintained permanently as a public record in the office of the auditor. Working papers and other audit files maintained by the Auditor of Public Accounts are not public records and are exempt from the Public Records Law. That's what you're doing with this bill, you are exempting all of those working papers from the Public Records Law, they will no longer be public records. So that's a big change in policy there. Senator Hall, can I ask you a question?

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR WITEK: Why...why do you think DSS working papers should not be open to the public, or any other department?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Witek, the underlying record is public record.

SENATOR WITEK: Well, but the language in this bill seals off the working papers.