

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Witek's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Witek amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Witek would move to amend with AM3395. (May be found on page 1021 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Witek to open on her amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam President, members of the body, what this amendment would do is, on page 8 of the green copy of the bill, strike the public meeting exemption for the policy cabinet. If you'll look on page 8, lines 20 and 21, it's...the statement is, "The Policy Cabinet is not a public body and its meetings are not subject to these sections", and these sections are the public meeting law section. There's also another section in the back of the bill that just adjusts the statutes accordingly. On page 38, lines 13 through 14, it says...it adds them to an exemption from the public meeting laws. There's a couple reasons for doing this. My first is if this policy cabinet is comprised of department heads and this policy secretary who will be appointed by the Governor, and these department heads are already exempt, in their own meeting, from public meeting laws, then there is no need to exempt the policy cabinet from the public meeting laws, because they already have an exemption from the public meeting laws. By exempting them, though, by having this language in there and exempting them I think we set up a barrier that is unnecessary to set up, not only to individuals who might want to be involved in this type of a discussion, just to listen to it, but to ourselves, who, when we get this plan next December, on this tremendous restructuring effort that is supposed to take place, we are essentially saying give it to us December 1st and we'll come in January 1st and make all of these decisions on how to restructure 6,000 people and spend almost \$2 billion. I am not prepared to do that. I'm one who likes to see in detail what you're asking me to do. I'm one who likes to see more than the PR pieces that are put out in a public relations campaign to try to convince the public for support. If you're asking me as a legislator, as a professional legislator to look at something like this, I need to have facts and figures, and exactly what you're asking me to do, so when I