

What this amendment does, if we're going to have openness in government, when you have department heads meeting, attempting to..to reach some consensus on..not to take official action but to just meet and discuss issues, then we ought to expand that. And what this says, "In addition, all meetings of two or more state senators, any gathering of two or more members of the Supreme Court, and any meeting held in the Governor's Office shall also comply with the open meetings law." If we're going to have more openness in government then we ought to be more open. I offer this, obviously this is not a serious amendment but this is an attempt to frame the issue as I see it. As I see this policy cabinet it is a group of individuals who will meet, from time to time, attempt to coordinate. If anything comes out of that that is going to lead to a specific policy, a need for a specific rule, then it's going to go through the rule-making process and it's going to be open to public meeting. The types of things that will be discussed here are probably on the same level as meetings when a few senators get together to discuss what we ought to be doing on the floor. Obviously we're going to make decisions here in the open, but we have many meetings to discuss policy private..prior to that. The Governor has countless people going in and out of his office, giving him input, discussing what might be an appropriate position to take. When the Governor makes an executive pronouncement then that, of course, becomes public. The Supreme Court has many deliberations where they...and the only thing we get to see out of that is the opinion that's written. It makes as much sense to bring those types of discussions under the public meeting law as this particular...particular amendment that Senator Witek is offering. Would like to, because Senator Witek is not discussing simply her amendment but discussing other aspects, which is certainly appropriate under our rules, I'd like to comment on a couple of comments that she has made. Number one, she said we are doubling management employees because we have gone from fifteen exempt employees, which was the subject of her last amendment, to thirty. I don't know what her concept of state government is, but if she thinks there are 6,000 employees in this department that are managed by 15 individuals today, that's just not...not...there's lots and lots of management employees within the departments that we're talking about today. The way that these 30 exempt positions are going to occur is some of those individuals now holding those positions will fill these new positions. And where they previously held a management position that was still part of the bargaining unit,