

they will now be exempt from that. And that's simply how that will work. Secondly, she talked about the Auditor getting involved and that kind of raised the hackles just a little bit, I guess, 'cause the Auditor's job is to audit, to look and see if state dollars are being spent in a manner in which they comply with state law. You know this particular Auditor has attempted, time and time again, to broaden that role, and Senator Witek seems to be trying to broaden that also. It's simply not allowed by statute. As I recall, several years ago, back when Senator Schimek wasn't nearly as bright as she is now, she tried to carry an amendment which would have broadened the Auditor's ability to get into this area of performance audits and making recommendations in terms of efficiency of government. And there was absolutely no support for that on the floor of the Legislature, doing that at that time. So, you know, bringing the Auditor into this as a good idea, you know, simply that is not the role of the auditor. I know this Auditor is very uncomfortable with his current role in life. But be that as it may, that's...he just doesn't involve in these particular areas. With that let me, I raised this amendment only for a point. I don't want to belabor the bill by asking you to consider...continue to consider my amendment, but I really do consider the Witek amendment, as it is currently before us, to be as extreme as what I've written on this particular piece of paper that's before us at this time. With that, Senator Wesely, I don't know if you have any comments or not, I'll yield the rest of my time to you if you do, otherwise I'll withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely, there's five and a half minutes remaining.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I think Senator Withem's point is exactly right. We do allow for the executive branch to have meetings currently with their department heads. The directors meet, they discuss things, they are not open meetings. This simply recognizes that these three departments and their directors can sit down and work together and collaborate and not have to worry about whether or not they have an open meeting. I'm not even sure it's absolutely necessary that we identify that in the bill, but we're just reiterating it because it's so vital that they feel no hesitancy with sitting down and talking with one another and working through the issues that they face. So if they currently can