

Legislature. And that's the bulk of the work that they do. The actual management of the agencies is given a broad grant of authority through the budget process, back to the Appropriations Committee, which determines how much money they give and for what purpose it can be spent. So the appropriations process and the process of passing or repealing legislation is a process that we have always taken our legitimate role in. And the process that Senator Avery would have us interject ourselves into is a process that we ought not to be involved in, and that is the day-to-day management operation of agencies. We can do that, we can intercede and we can have an impact, but this attempt to try to have a plan with all the details and then say nothing can happen until we take action on it will, in fact, I think, tie us down when we need to move forward. And when I think about the issues involved here, they deal with the fact that the bill does take the five agencies and merge them into three. But then from there we have within the substructure the ability to take some elements and put people together, working together. These sort of changes that would be a natural one and agreed to by all parties, part of the agreement with the state employees was that they would have some say in this. The idea would be that if these agency people sat down, they had the employees involved, they had the public involved, they had the Legislature involved, and everybody agreed on something, they could take action to provide and efficiency, why should we not allow that to happen because it's part of some plan that has to go through a process for us? I don't think we want that. I think what we want is a broad authority that we currently have and to continue to have to oversee these services and programs, and the funding of the programs and services, that retains itself. But in terms of the very specific items that can make life better and simpler for the public, I don't see why we need to interject ourselves on those points. And that's the distinction that I would make. So now the plan that we're hoping to have that would have, layout all these details, now if it's in the plan, they can't move forward, so you actually discourage inclusion in the plan of everything that's being looked at for the public to see, and instead, if it's part of the plan now, it's got to come back to us. So it may seem confusing to you, the bottom line of this is, you don't want to adopt the Avery amendment. You want to allow the continued authority and oversight of the Legislature as it exists today and you want to continue and allow for the agencies to provide for efficiencies within the operation of their departments as we