

raised the last time we were on this about...by Senators...I think primarily by Senator Wickersham, myself, Senator Brown and some others, about whether we are limiting ourselves when we...by the language that's in the committee amendments, if we're limiting ourselves to not replacing a system if it...that's more cost-efficient than simply changing the...or going through the process of making that century date change. The language that's worked out is found on page 1562 of the Journal, does indicate that replacement of existing computers, hardware or software, would be allowed to...if that is the most cost-efficient way of making that century date change. The problem we...we have the century date change as a...is an issue that deals, at least in my understanding, primarily with computers that are...that are either mainframe or ten years old or more. Most...for example, most FCs that have been made in the last few years don't have that problem. It's already been built in. The correction has already been built in to them. So if it makes sense to take a portion of what our computer system has and convert that to a PC network...this is a just an example...to a PC network, that we could do that. The department could buy that additional hardware and software, if that is the most efficient way of correcting that century date problem, or if that is the most cost-efficient way of doing so. It wouldn't make sense to spend half a million dollars on making a date change in a particular area if we can replace the entire system, update and modernized it, for the same...same amount of money. It's the kind of thing where that kind of flexibility ought to be allowed to the...to the department. There was a concern on the other side that, to satisfy Senator Wehrbein and some other's concerns, that we didn't want to give the department free rein to go out and buy computer equipment without having taken care of the primary purpose of the funding that is in LB 1190, that being the correction of the CDC. So that...what this amendment is attempting to do is to strike that balance between Senator Wehrbein's goal, in limiting the discretion, and the concern raised by some on the floor of not limiting it so much that we can't...we can't do some common sense things. I think this amendment is a...does accomplish that. I would urge you to support the amendment. If Senator Wehrbein would like any of my time, I'd yield it to him. If not, I would simply urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wehrbein, on the Lindsay amendment.