

can be completed. And what this amendment does, does not require the expenditure of any funds, but it would direct the Building Division, Department of Administrative Services to conduct a cost/benefit analysis continuing of a lease of any buildings that the state currently leases where the state exceeds 50 percent of the total building space, and then they are to come back and report to the Appropriations Committee. And then if the Appropriations Committee acts, so the Legislature as a whole, of course, as to whether or not it would be more cost beneficial to purchase a structure under a lease-purchase type of agreement rather than continue to rent. The issue was brought to my attention because at least one structure, which is in Lincoln, and which we do as a state lease in excess of 50 percent, a number of those leases are going to terminate over the next couple of years and it would appear that the purchase...the purchase of those structures, over a several year period, would in fact be less costly than to continue to rent. All the amendment does is, would direct that DAS would bring the information to the Legislature as to what would be the cost of acquisition and compared that to the continuation of the leasing of that same structure for a number of years. It's my belief that in some of these at least the cost of purchasing over a period of time would be substantially less than the continuation of a lease. But there is no requirement, of course, that the Legislature approve that lease, but they would at least have the information brought and it could be, over time, a savings of the expenditures if that was done. In addition, I believe it would be correct to say that under a lease-purchase agreement some of these agencies are cash-funded and you continue to use those cash fund sources as a method of at least what in effect is a lease-purchase until the facility was acquired. But the purpose of the amendment is merely to request that the study be done, and in the event that it is a cost/benefit to consider that purchase over time as opposed to rent, the Legislature would have that information and proceed, if they chose to do so in 1997 session. I'd be glad to respond to questions, but it's consistent with the other bill, that is LB 1265 that I believe is on Final Reading.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Warner, your light is next, do you wish to continue? Senator Wehrbein, your light is next.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I rise to support