

this. It was adopted on 26 to...the other position was adopted on 26-0 vote. The staffing positions we're talking about that are in the Department of Roads Legal Division show up on the position staffing report at the Attorney General's office, and not on that of the Department of Roads. It's very...very clear that the budget authority for these positions ought to be with the agency which controls the hiring, the firing, the promotion, demotion, discipline, all that, of the particular staffing positions. And so that's the intent, to make sure that the responsibility sticks...or the accountability sticks with the...with whoever has the control. With that, I would urge that the amendment be adopted.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Wehrbein on the amendment.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to oppose this, and it's something the Appropriations Committee did look at this year, and we made a deliberate effort not to go ahead with it at this time. We're going to look at it for another year. We thought it was not probably appropriate to do this in the middle of biennium. It's an issue that could well be discussed. We have done that in the past where these people were physically located in the Attorney General's office. These, in contrast, are physically located in the Department of Roads. They are exclusively working on Department of Roads projects. So it's...I think at this point we feel it's more appropriate for them to be there and stay there at they...as it is presently. It is something that, as I said, we were going to look at for next year. We just felt it was not really the right time to do it in mid-stream this year. And we will make an issue of it for next year. And so I would oppose the amendment at this time, as I said, the Appropriations Committee did discuss it. In fact, we went back to it a second time to be sure we all understood exactly what the issue was. We felt it was not really the time to do it. We will do it...look at it...look at it very carefully between now and the next budget cycle.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Chambers, on the Senator Lindsay amendment.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein some questions.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Wehrbein, would you respond?