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FLOOR DEBATE

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cosponsors, that dealt with the administration of the Capitol building. So going through that process, staff for various people, led by the Exec Board, came up with an amendment that put everything together. The amendment relates to, in its totality, relates to several different kinds of concerns. And certainly, one of its primary goals is to affect in different ways legislative input into different kinds of policy decisions that are made with respect to the Capitol building and the Legislature's relationship to the Capitol building. So let me talk a little bit about some of the different influences and the different aspects of the amendment. And I would start out by reiterating that it incorporates and preserves all of Senator Hudkins' idea, in its entirety, of having the State Patrol take over the security for the Capitol building. Then it goes on to incorporate the space allocation process, with respect to the Capitol building, that has been, I think I can honestly say, a kind of sticking point for the Legislature's Executive Board, through several Exec Board chairs, and over a long period of years, because the Legislature, to various degrees over the years, has always had to negotiate with the executive branch of government with regard to space allocations. And sometimes we got the space for senators that we needed, and sometimes we didn't. And sometimes we got office space and conference space and that sort of thing, and sometimes we didn't. Under Senator Chambers' bill, which was supported unanimously by the Executive Board, and which is incorporated in this amendment...you can read it on page 7 of the amendment. It's Section 10. It says, the office space in the Capitol building, and it names the different offices who have space in the Capitol building, shall remain under control of such officer unless, and here are the key words, unless the space is required by the legislative branch as determined by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. What that ends up meaning is that the legislative branch of government is going to have the prerogative of first defining its needs, so that if we make the decision that we don't want two freshman senators in every office, that they are equal to the others and should have equal space, we can make that decision. We don't need to negotiate, or wait a year or two or three years, or perhaps never have it happen. So that's a very important aspect of...perhaps the most important aspect of legislative input into Capitol building decisions. And then,