

April 1, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate

Dear President Samuelson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 309, Senate File 3084, a bill modifying certain state and local auditing procedures and reporting practices.

I have serious reservations about legislation that transfers responsibilities from one state government entity to another without funds or staff to make sure the work can get done, particularly in light of significant budget cuts to state agencies. Further, given the statutorily mandated hiring freeze in the phase I budget passed by the legislature, the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning cannot hire new staff to perform this function.

Finally, there has been no state funding in the past several years to support the agency's criminal justice statistics functions or staff. The office has one federally-funded position dedicated to a specific criminal justice project. Documenting and reporting on the disposition of forfeited property would be a unique function and is unrelated to the agency's statutory duties.

For these reasons, I am vetoing the bill.

Sincerely,
Jesse Ventura, Governor

Senator Moe, R.D. moved that S.F. No. 3084 and the veto message thereon be laid on the table. The motion prevailed.