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State Auditor Leslie Merritt made the following comments:

I was asked by the court to approve a narrow change in the way our prisons handle executions, not the much larger policy question evaluating the merits of the death penalty. I have learned through this process that very few are content with the current system. Whether they favor commuting all death sentences to life in prison or swifter executions, they largely agree that the current system is inefficient while the system's current costs are not readily ascertainable. There are currently 167 inmates on death row with convictions going back more than 20 years. If policy makers take up this issue, I encourage them to explore an alternative that makes the entire process more efficient without compromising its integrity.