

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 16, 2005      LB 588

others. There are committee amendments. Senator Engel, you're recognized, as Chairman of Exec Committee, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, these are technical amendments, and the committee amendment to LB 588, AM0472, does three things. First of all, it reinstates existing language that was inadvertently stricken so that the Performance Audit Committee, in addition to the Performance Audit Section, continues to have the authority to inspect or examine agency records and documents. Second, the committee amendments add language to ensure that any consultant employed by the Performance Audit Section is subject to statutory restrictions on access to tax records, and subject to the penalty for violation of those statutes. And, finally, the committee amendment permits the Performance Audit Section to discuss or share confidential information with the Performance Audit Committee Chairperson, who would be subject to a penalty for disclosure of such confidential information. That's kind of the extent of it. I'd appreciate your approval of these and, of course, of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments offered by the Exec Committee Board. Open for discussion. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Would Senator Beutler yield to some questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Beutler, I have been listening to your remarks and you basically said that you want to give the Chair of the committee as much authority to investigate, basically, as the State Auditor. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That...let me...let me explain that in detail so that we're clear as to what happens. It gives the authority to do the audit to the section, that is the people, the