

SENATOR WITEK: This is public access, the public will never have access with the passage of this bill to any of that information?

SENATOR HALL: That...that...that is not accurate. If there was a problem with regard to an issue that was an illegal use of those monies, that clearly would then be pursued by the auditor. That is why we included the Attorney General as well as the county attorneys for purposes of releasing that information, those work papers, and that person could very likely and probably would be and should be prosecuted. That would be very public.

SENATOR WITEK: So, essentially, what you are doing is sealing off...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...(interrupted) publicly elected officials similar to what happens in a court case?

SENATOR HALL: No, not necessarily.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, one more question.

SENATOR HALL: That would be an analogy but not necessarily.

SENATOR WITEK: On page 6, it says, on line 11 that, "is specifically prohibited or limited by federal or state law". So could, at one point, we come back and make a change to state law then. It says here, "No provisions of state law shall be construed to change the nonpublic nature of the data obtained as a result of the access." Are you binding future legislators from ever making a law to change what we are doing here?

SENATOR HALL: No, absolutely not. This law could be changed by amendment today, on Select File, next year, two years from now. And really what that section does is it guarantees the auditor access. If you read the first line in that sentence, it says, the State Auditor shall have access to all records of public entities..."

SENATOR WITEK: Unless we make a state law to say otherwise.

SENATOR HALL: Correct, or there is a federal...