

Public Accounts did not come to the hearing and that was very strange. But, Senator Chambers, I'd like to ask you another questions.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Who does the oversight for the budgeting of the housing authorities?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: As that letter pointed out, if they have a board, the board members lay out the budget, HUD must approve of it, so that would be whether they have a board or commissioners.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. But you and I both know that boards sometimes are not deeply involved or really involved in the day to day affairs of a housing authority.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Pirsch, I don't know if you understand the purpose of this bill. Even if the auditor required them to do this, there is nothing he can do in regulating their budget. There are no state funds. He cannot tell them how to spend money, how to budget or anything else. All he is trying to do is make them fill out all this additional paperwork and file it with his office. He cannot, he has no authority to make them do anything with reference to their budget. So if you dislike the way the housing authorities are operating, HUD is the agency you'd have to go to for that or if there are things that the local city council has to approve it, that would be the place, but not the Auditor of Public Accounts.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Do they file their budgets locally or are they all in Washington, D.C.?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well I imagine that you can get...you have the opportunity to review the local budget of any local agency wherever...in every location they would have a copy of their budget there and I'm sure it's public information.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. And you felt the need to prohibit housing authorities to be audited or filing requirements specifically by the Auditor of Public Accounts, but this would not...