

SENATOR HILLMAN: Right. And you keep going clear over till you get to the part that starts out, "The Secretary of State shall monitor", it's right close to the end of the...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, the Secretary of State shall monitor corporate and syndicate agricultural land purchases and corporate and syndicated farming and ranching operations, and it says, "shall monitor and notify the Attorney General of any possible violations", and it goes on then to what the Attorney General should be. I guess my question is, looking at the county involvement and striking the words "Attorney General", in Senator Dierks' bill, are we somehow in violation of the constitution?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, the quote in the constitution that you are quoting is very, very interesting in light of this bill. Because what she's pointing out, I hope you all are listening, is that the Secretary of State now has the duty to monitor these violations. The reporting requirement that's being instituted in this instance doesn't help any more or less in monitoring him and in fulfilling the constitutional provision. And she's right to point out that, you know, there is a real legal question here in the sense that the Attorney General is, I mean, first of all there's a complete contrast here in the sense that the Attorney General is given the prerogative to commence an action or not to commence an action, under the constitution, whereas under the statute they're required to commence an action, although it's for failure to provide a report or for giving false information. I think that...you can...you may be addressing two or three different problems and questions, but I think the most interesting one is if this provision that's in the constitution doesn't work, why would we think this statute would improve the situation anymore? I'll give you back your time because maybe that was a different point than what you were making.

SENATOR HILLMAN: No, I think that's what we're getting to. And I'm assuming and I shouldn't assume, so I probably will ask Senator Dierks before I go on with this. Senator Dierks, if you would yield, please.