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fiscal years like our current one only serve to highlight the critical need we have for ensuring that our tax-funded programs are all being run appropriately. Two weeks ago I read an article that pointed out that the difficult budget times being faced by private companies right now have offered the opportunity for necessary reforms and increased efficiency. And it's my belief that our state government also needs to act positively in these difficult times as well. We can all agree that we would much rather save dollars by increasing efficiency and effectiveness rather than by cutting essential services. I believe that LB 607 will allow the state a better method to identify existing inefficiencies in our programs and agencies. I want to make it clear, again, that LB 607 does not shift power away from the Legislature. LB 607 makes it clear that it is still the Legislature, and specifically the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, that must authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct a performance audit. Now I have to say at this point that this power issue was not my first concern when I chose to prioritize the bill. And as I said before, I was simply searching for the best vehicle to carry out the concerns of the citizens of my district. And when you get right down to it, the constituents of the 32nd District are much less concerned about whether it's the legislator or the Auditor of Public Accounts that discovers our inefficiencies than they are concerned that these problems are definitely discovered and resolved. In attempting to achieve this goal, LB 607 does provide that if the Auditor of Public Accounts discovers any potential problems related to the effectiveness, efficiency or performance of our programs during the course of conducting their audit, then they are to report this finding to the Performance Audit Committee. And this really gets to the heart of the matter of what I'm hoping to achieve by prioritizing LB 607. If someone is conducting a financial audit, discovers problems with that program, we...what we don't need is an argument over who is to answer what questions to whom. We simply need to know about the possible problem and then get it investigated in a timely and efficient manner. Makes sense to me that whoever is conducting the financial audit is in a very unique position to reveal a program's performance efficiencies or their problems. This bill provides that when such a problem arises, then the problem is reported to the Legislature, and