

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

February 1, 2005 LB 301

I'm sure, with regard to the executive branch, that they're particularly sensitive to reports that take time to prepare. But again, being on the Performance Audit Committee, I've become more sensitive to the value of certain reports as direct management tools within a department, and also as a kind of oversight tool that facilitates performance review from time to time in different departments. And in fact, I hate to report, but we have a small bill coming out asking the Health Department to keep track of certain reimbursement records, so we have a history of whether they're collecting Medicaid reimbursements on a regular basis, for example. And that report will be used, hopefully, you know, in the future, by Performance Audit, to kind of keep track a little bit of what's going on, and if we ever have to review it again, to facilitate that review. I don't know how to frame this question, or how you make a judgment on these things entirely, but let me just ask you this. The reports that we're eliminating, do we feel comfortable, or have you had an opportunity to look at them from the point of view of Performance Audit, or from the point of view of management tools that some future Legislature might want to grab a hold of, even though we don't use it for three or four years, and establish in a quicker fashion some intellectual relationship with what's going on, so that you can better make judgments about it and that sort of thing? Especially to a term-limited Legislature and legislators that are going to be short on experience, the quicker they can get information and the better the information, the better chance they'll have to deal with it intelligently. And I recognize this is kind of a nebulous question, in a way. But I would just be interested in your reaction to it, and whether you've had occasion to look at any of these reports, and whether they're...they truly are useless now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, thank you, Senator Beutler. And, yes, and matter of fact, we went down each one of those reports, and I feel comfortable that they are no longer needed. Boy, we get so much information across our desk that we will check off and not read. But I do feel that the reports that they're asking to be removed or deleted are not significant enough that it will