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SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is, yes, that is part of it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And is the Ombudsman basing his opinion on the statute or on some interpretation of the constitution when he says that it would apply if they have grievance procedures?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I'm consulting the legal counsel here and she thinks that he is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...basing it on statute.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may continue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Let's assume, for the moment, that it's...that it's based on statute. Would you be of the opinion that the Legislature could change that statute so it applied to all the offices?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Do I think the Legislature could do that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes. I mean, we're purporting to apply it to some of the offices by virtue of this statutory interpretation. Could we apply it to all?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I think, if I'm understanding this right, it technically does apply to those constitutional offices, but if there's no grievance policy it's the Public Counsel's position that he...there's no way they can get involved if...I mean...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so there's no way to force them to have a grievance procedure; therefore, there's no way to force them to deal effectively...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...with a whistle-blower,...