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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Because, again...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to protect a whistle-blower. Is that right?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...again, like the Legislature, their employees are at will.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So if the State Treasurer or the Auditor or somebody discovers there's been an operation of theirs that's been reported by a whistle-blower, then if they don't have a grievance procedure they could just fire them and they wouldn't be protected by the whistle-blower act. Is that right?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is my understanding, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Now, if...and that's assuming, for the moment, that the constitutional interpretation is that you can bring the constitutional officers within the jurisdiction of the Legislature for purposes of this whistle-blower act. Is...isn't that accurate, too? I mean, there's still the constitutional question hanging out there.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, there is a constitutional question, so I'm not sure that we can do what you just said. Say it again, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I may not have been listening carefully enough.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You're applying or you're indicating that this measure is being applied to at least some of the constitutional offices.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That would be what I understand from what the Public Counsel has told us, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And if it applies to some of the