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employees, who are doing the performance audit. There is a situation, the committee amendment addresses it in part, but the Performance Audit Committee, as far as committee members are concerned, only the Speaker would be authorized to look at confidential information and then only in the instance of a dispute between some other agency and the Performance Audit Committee with regard to the validity of the audit that's being done, the credibility of the audit being done. And let me remind you that this committee has on it the Speaker of the Legislature, by virtue of his position; the Chair of the Exec Board, by virtue of his position; the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, by virtue of his position; and then four other members. That's what the green copy of the bill says. The committee moved to give the Chair of the committee authority with respect to confidential information in instances where the section needed guidance with respect to that question, and that's what the committee amendment did. So, of the members of the committee, only two, under certain circumstances, would have access, possibly, to confidential information.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Now, but this is access that's already established in the Auditor's Office. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The access is already established in the Auditor's Office to investigate their records to whatever extent that statute, the current statute, allows and to whatever extent they may argue they have inherent authority, being Auditor, to look at records. I don't know what they would argue in that respect.

SENATOR SMITH: Right. And I guess my underlying concern is that we're duplicating some things that don't need to be duplicated. Because, in my experience on Government Committee in the past and so forth, it was my take on the situation that if the Legislature needed a kind of audit that they weren't able to obtain for reasons of personnel resources or otherwise, they would just go to the Auditor's Office, get that; and, likewise, if the Auditor needed some information that the Legislature only had the power to obtain, then the Auditor would come to the committee to get that. So I'm a little concerned that this is duplicating some things that don't need to be duplicated, but