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Public Service Commission, some aspect of its work, you could request a performance audit, being as specific as you possibly can get. The committee would decide whether to take up that audit. If they did take up the audit and if the audit became defined so as to require confidential information in order to efficiently and effectively complete the audit, then the committee could make the decision to request that information.

SENATOR FOLEY: But as an individual senator, and as one who's not on the committee, would I...could I become part of that process of investigating that particular program if the Performance Audit Committee...if I was successful in selling them on the concept that this program, in particular, needed to be reviewed?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah.

SENATOR FOLEY: Or am I kind of...

SENATOR BEUTLER: You cannot become a direct part of the process and the reason for that is because we've always made a huge effort to try to depoliticize the process and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if individual senators are directly involved as part of the audit, then it's not seen...it becomes seen as more political. So not even the members of the committee participate in the actual audit work. We wait for results to come back at certain stages and we make decisions based on the information. But while the audit is going on, there's no individual interplay between the office being audited and the legislative members of the committee even, except conceivably, although I've never exercised or seen it exercised in my time, except conceivably those two instances I described where there may be a need for some intervention in the event of a dispute.

SENATOR FOLEY: And what about the staff resources that would be available to the Performance Audit Committee? Does this bill provide any enhanced staffing?