

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 16, 2005 LB 588

bureaucracy. With that, thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the comments from Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. On with discussion. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, let me...let me be clear about two or three things that were thrown out to you here, because I don't think there's really any issue. First of all, we are not doing battle with the Auditor of Public Accounts on this bill. We're not taking away anything from the Auditor in this bill, don't purport to. Any differences that the Performance Audit Committee had with the Auditor were, by the by, last year when things were straightened out by you all on this floor in the way that you thought appropriate. And so we're not intending, nor does this bill do, any damage whatsoever to the Auditor's ability to do that which they are intended to do. Secondly, with regard to the separation of powers, I think there is absolutely no separation of powers question. The Legislature has absolutely the right to look and see how its laws are being implemented and whether they're being implemented in the way that they're intended. Not only do they have the right to do that but, in my opinion, we have the obligation to do that. We have one of the weakest Performance Audit Sections in the country. We have just four people. Even small states have eight, nine, and ten people doing that work. We're not geared up yet to do it right. That's part of what the committee is trying to do in a number of ways, is to gear it up so that we can perform that efficiency function and be as effective in reviewing the laws as we are in making the laws. And, finally, this is not about individuals. No senator is benefiting from this. The Speaker of the House...the Speaker of the Senate, by virtue of the absolute necessity of having...of having somebody resolve a dispute in a question of whether there's a right to access and whether there's a right to see whether an audit was properly done, that is the only instance of a senator having access to confidential information, except one. This committee amendment gives the Chair of the committee the right to have an interplay with the staff on the question of confidentiality and what the staff should be doing. I think it was intended by others, I didn't suggest it, that the committee