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FLOOR DEBATE

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in my mind, to oversee that and see that it's carried out to...per our agreements. And I think putting more emphasis and influence in this body is appropriate, and if that is abused I think we have the internal controls over time that we can control it even faster than a state elected constitutional officer who can go at least four to eight years.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First of all, I couldn't agree more with Senator Wehrbein. I do believe that we have to have and need to be involved in more oversight of these agencies. I know Senator Chambers has said many, many times that we have control with the purse strings, but that isn't all I think we need to be involved in. People have said to me from time to time that, far as my interest in Department of Corrections is, how do you get that involved? And mine was interest because this is where I've worked most of my life, and a lot of them people out there are people I have worked with. About 70 percent of the people I have worked with in the past have probably ended up in prison, because I worked with the young kids who are being charged as adults, which already means they've gone through the juvenile system and are ending up in more serious problems. I've been very pleased with the Legislature, in the 13 years I've been here, that we are now starting to move in the area of community corrections. Senator Brashear has done a very good job in bringing that to the forefront, which I was not able to do, but with the help of the Legislature that's happened. That's why we need involvement in there and then to have some authority over these people or be able to do more than just say we have the purse strings. Senator Wehrbein is one who, what he just said, I agree with 100 percent. That hasn't always happened. We need to be involved, and if that's through this type of audit, then let's do it. I'm going to support the amendment. I need to say that I've always been kind of more supportive of performance audits being done by the Auditor's Office, but if we can do it and do the...a better job even than what we've done, then I...then I would be more supportive, and that I need to know that happened. I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a couple more