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LB 588

be handled, who should have access, where should they have access, can they take papers wherever, or what are the qualifications of the person having access. And I want to emphasize the fact that I think we should move very, very cautiously. Perhaps that's because I'm conservative, and paranoid, maybe, Senator Schimek. But I have a concern with...and especially, even though I'm a member of the legislative branch of government, I have a concern of the legislative branch of government having access to records that are otherwise highly, highly confidential. If the Legislature passes a policy that's hard to enforce or hard to detect the effectiveness, that's our fault. That's our fault. But I just want to speak candidly to some of these issues. Now, in terms of the issue at hand, LB 588, and how we adopt the policies and qualifications of the Performance Audit Division within the Legislature, I want to be open-minded about how we do this. I also want to make sure that we do it consistent with national standards. And it's my understanding that Nebraska is one of a kind, not only with its unicameral approach, but also with this new division that we have, that being the Performance Audit Division within the Legislative Research Unit of the Legislature. And the peer review I think is an important aspect prior to the audit taking place. That is a way for us to recruit the opinions of other states, and the folks who work in the trenches. And this is really what this is all about--the folks working in the trenches, coming to us, telling us how our policies are being carried out, how they aren't, and so on and so forth. But let's also keep in mind the fact that the Department of Revenue has a job to do in keeping records and so forth. Let's let them do that. Let's look at the bottom line, many times. But again, I am wanting to move so very cautiously, in terms of giving the legislative branch, but only one person of the legislative branch of government, access to these confidential records. And I want to also point out the fact that I think this runs counter to the purpose of the legislative branch of government being all 49 of us coming from varying perspectives but with the same opportunity for information, same opportunity for coming together with a meeting of the minds, brainstorming, perhaps arriving at a compromise. But then all of a sudden, we kind of have this policy off to the side where one or two members of the Legislature have a leg up, so to