

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2005

LB 588

right now. We have one request dealing with the Department of Revenue. It has absolutely nothing to do with confidential tax records. Senator Beutler pointed out, it deals with the lottery, whether or not the lottery funds are adequately appropriated, and where those dollars are going, and how we can access those. Now, I have inquired informally from the Auditor whether or not that information is available. I'm assured that it is. However, I haven't received that. And I will make a formal request to grant that. But within 18 months is about the approximate time line it would take to begin the process of going through a pre-audit, then having the audit, and going through that process. If Senator Smith's amendment is adopted, we're still fine, on the legislative side of things, to access the information in an appropriate time frame, because there isn't anything pending before the Audit Committee that would ensure that we need that access right now. So I see this as an appropriate safeguard. I see this as an opportunity for us in the legislative side of things to ensure that what our work product is is not questioned for any reason. There have been those that have questioned the work product, because of their own personalities, because of their own misgivings, whatever it is. I want to remove that option. I want them to be able to say that when a report comes out of the Audit Committee and the committee that I'm a member of and Senator Beutler is the Chairman of and the Speaker is a part of, when we sit down and we say, this is what we as a legislative side of government have reviewed within this department, we believe this needs to be resolved, here are some appropriate actions to take, we want those to be to the same standard as everyone else. And arguably, they are. Arguably, they are. And so why not go down that next step and ensure that those processes are exactly accountable to any other auditor? It eliminates that whole argument that people may have against whether or not this committee, or this council, is doing the job according to what everybody else is doing. I think it's wholly appropriate. So it's not a judgment on the work quality. And again, if it was, then Senator Beutler shouldn't have brought his amendment. But I don't think that's it at all. I think it's an effort to bring us up to appropriate standards. And I think the debate is the time line.