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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: For me personally, I'm okay with Senator Smith's proposal.   Looking at what's available for the Audit Committee to look at, what's been placed as a priority within the committee, I think this time frame is appropriate.   My concern is that we go down this path and we're not positioned with all the checks and balances necessary in place.   And it's not for those members of the committee that we work with directly. It's the other factors. And finally, I need to do some more research, but it's my understanding that we have exempted, and the reason why this amendment is here is, we have exempted our audit staff and the Performance Audit Committee from these standards.   And we need to have this in place to ensure that we can go down this path, that that's a requirement that we as lawmakers hold for our employees.   Because when they're accessing this information, we need to make sure that we're asking for what we specifically want them to do, just like we would any other agency, and when they comply with that, that we know that the work product that they have compiled is exactly according to standards and is beyond dispute from those who would challenge it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman.   Further discussion.   Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, let me try to be clear as to what our auditors do right now. With respect to the manner in which they audit, and the principles that they follow, they do in fact now follow generally accepted government auditing standards. What don't they do that allows us not to be able to be certified, quote unquote?   What they don't do are the items that are crossed out on the Smith amendment, down in lines 13 through 17.   We don't comply with the general standards relating to continuing education. We don't do that. And we don't do that because we haven't had the money to do that until recent times here. But