

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

April 4, 2005

LB 588

we're going to do that. The second thing is that we don't have the external quality control review. And we're going to do that. But contrary to Senator Smith's assertion, that does take a couple of years of time. But the way we conduct everything else, you may see up higher in the amendment, we were following the field work standards for performance audits, and the reporting standards for performance audits. So in the sense that somebody may assert that we aren't doing things in a professional manner, it's because of the continuing education expense, and because of the external review expense that this Legislature hasn't seen fit to take on yet, but which we will hopefully take on in the next couple years, and which we much take on under Senator Smith's amendment, whether you adopt his amendment or whether you adopt the subsequent amendment, which is, as I mentioned to you earlier, what is in my opinion the better half of his amendment. So in the way that we're conducting things, it is every bit as professional as what other people are doing. And for that reason, there is no reason to bind yourselves in terms of what kind of performance audits you may want done by the committee. There's no reason to bind yourself unnecessarily, whether it's with regard to the Department of Revenue or the Department of DHH, which has lots of confidential information under HIPAA, as Senator Johnson knows. There's no reason to single anything out and say, we're not capable of doing it now, because we are. And so again, it's just that piece of Senator Smith's amendment which I don't think is agreeable. This is the Performance Audit Committee, I remind you again, that is made up of the Speaker of the Legislature, the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, the head of the Executive Board. And so...and they are members of this committee by virtue of holding those offices. And so this is not a committee that would take on or be likely to take on, in any time or circumstances, something that would be considered by any of you to be radical or unwise or otherwise inappropriate. So again, I would encourage you not to adopt Senator Smith's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) Further discussion. Senator Smith. And this will be your third time.