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

April 4, 2005 LB 588

And I...again, I'll go back to my reservations on LB 588. I don't know what's happened with other members in terms of LB 588 and what a grand idea it is to let the legislative branch of government...no, excuse me, not the legislative branch of government, just a couple members of the legislative branch of government. This is a major shift in policy. I will remind you, it is a major shift in policy. And for us to craft our own little, let's do it on the cheap, way of performance auditing, because that's all we can do, then what effectiveness, what legitimacy do those reports have? There are a lot of questions to ask here that I believe are still unanswered. We have a separation of powers in government, whether it's at the state level or at the federal level, and oftentimes even at the local The beauty of the legislative branch of government, at whatever level, is that each member has the same vote, and basically, each member has the same access to the same information. LB 588 twists that. I hope it does not twist that to the point that it breaks. Because I heard earlier from a colleague saying, well, gosh, that Breslow, he just...he did not act responsibly in that office; therefore, let's change the policies about how whoever has that office behaves from this point forward. We're not about that. I hope we aren't about that. I may be considered crazy about this, but the fact is, we are treading on some soil that we haven't tread on before, that being confidential records and the access of a couple members of the Legislature to grant...or to achieve access, or obtain access to income tax records. We're not talking about access to just a few. I do want to clarify. Would Senator Beutler answer a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield? One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Beutler, this does subject all records of the...LB 588 does subject all records at the Department of Revenue to access by the Chair of the Performance Audit Committee. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it's not accurate. I mean, first of