

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hall, not only is the Auditor a show dog, he's a hot dog, and in athletics that's somebody who puts on a lot of fluff and flair with no substance. Members of the Legislature, this bill, 579, before us now has resulted from numerous meetings, numerous compromises. Each time there was a meeting and a compromise came forth, we were told this satisfies the Auditor. The Legislature would back up. Then he would be emboldened to find somebody else to run with his water for him. There would be other meetings, additional compromises and that would be satisfactory to the Auditor. Then we wound up with an amendment last time which Senator Hohenstein offered and Senator Hall and I looked at it. It had nothing to do with compromising the confidentiality of our constituents so Senator Hall and I signed onto that amendment. That was supposed to be the thing that will put the bill in final form. Now we have Senator Landis and Senator Ashford bringing us yet another opportunity for the Legislature to back up because the Auditor wants it done, and I have reason...I have an understanding that he even wants this amendment changed even further because it doesn't meet his satisfaction. I think the Legislature must stand, as I have always maintained, and protect its integrity as a coordinate branch of government. Our power to legislate in this area is unquestioned. You can totally disregard that thing called an opinion that came from the Attorney General's office because it has been shown by a detailed analysis of each case by the Research Division of the Legislature that none of the cases are on point. When you have to use arguments that are invalid, that totally miss the mark, it means you don't have any arguments on the subject itself. The Attorney General and the Auditor have been threatening and threatening to go to court on this issue and I think they should. They will certainly lose. First of all, the office of the Attorney General and the office of the Auditor are made constitutional offices in the same provision of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of this state has talked about common law powers of the Attorney General's office but never any common law powers of the Auditor's office. But after mentioning that there are these powers associated with the Attorney General's office, the Supreme Court has stated repeatedly that these powers can be limited by the Legislature. So if those powers of the Attorney General can be limited, you know those of the Auditor can. The office of Attorney General