

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate and I recognize Senator Landis for closing.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I found that last speech by Senator Warner very instructive. At the heart of it was a concern for the concept of confidentiality, a concept that ten years ago he and I and two other members of this sitting body voted for when we passed a bill creating a system of confidentiality for our phone records. I agree to that principle and 579 also allows us to craft that concept narrowly, which is why it's a good advancement in the law. I happen to make one and only one change in what is otherwise a well-crafted very good bill that Senator Hall has introduced and amended in Executive Board. It is a bill that allows for confidentiality and yet public disclosure, two concepts that are very important to Senator Hohenstein. What it says, the only difference in my amendment than what the rest of the bill says is that the audit will be done by the Auditor of Public Accounts. Now the records that we turn over are financial records as previously announced in LB 579. By the way, there is a reference to memoranda and those are personally held by legislators. They are not to be given to anyone without our permission. That language remains unchanged. One change only. Instead of a choice between the CPA outside firm or the State Auditor, we say we will contract with the State Auditor. That's this amendment. Senator Hall pointed out that we have a higher standard. It is a virtue of 579, I congratulate the author for that higher hurdle or standards than anyone else has, but the public is asking us, who is going to be the judge of whether we have cleared that higher hurdle? Are we going to pick an East German judge in the middle of the Olympics when there is an East German finalist, as we all used to suspicion? Or do we have one that...a judge that the state has confidence in. I understand that this body may not have confidence, given what I heard today with the Auditor of Public Accounts. It is not our concern that I think is paramount, I think it is the public's. Senator Hohenstein rated a metaphor between the hungry lion and the meat, and I don't know what the metaphor is. Is the meat information and the lion the public, in which case we need to give them as much meat as is reasonable. But I think it was political power and political attention for the Auditor, I think that is the meat and the