

SENATOR BEUTLER: If I understand your question, the report that will be made will be in accordance with government auditing standards and those are the same standards that the auditor of public accounts is currently applying to all political subdivisions and would apply to the utilities if they were auditing them so, yes, the same standards will be applied.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And are those same standards applied to the Legislature's audit?

SENATOR BEUTLER: To the auditor of the Legislature itself?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I believe so.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Well I just wanted to point out, I guess, that indeed this is not opposed by the state auditor and that they are the same general auditing procedures that we passed in the bill regarding the Legislature.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, and if...maybe what you're getting at a little bit is whether...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...this has to do with substance or has to do with personalities. From my perspective it has to do with substance only and with trying to make a sensible set of procedures to be applicable to the utilities since the Budget Act in its wording and in its structure doesn't really anticipate a utility kind of operation in terms of the budget requirements. So, hopefully this is just more sensible and has nothing to do with...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Surely.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...Breslow or the auditor's office.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And I agree, I do support the committee amendment and I do think it probably is a sensible way to do that kind of across the state auditing.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Vrtiska.