



## **Government – Conference Committees**

**Whereas**, Minnesota received a D- grade for openness and transparency in state government from the [Center for Public Integrity](#); and,

**Whereas**, citizens in a democratic country have a right to view readily, to understand clearly, and to take part easily in governmental decisions; and,

**Whereas**, the State Auditor’s office was stripped of its local auditing authority behind closed doors by a few legislators, in the early morning hours of the last day of the regular 2015 legislative session; and,

**Whereas**, this provision was inserted by a Conference Committee into a “must-pass” State Government bill of more than 90 pages; and

**Whereas**, there was no individual bill on the Auditor’s authorities, there were no hearings, and no testimony was taken before these powers were stripped from this constitutional office; and

**Whereas**, this secret procedure was used in exactly this way on several other controversial issues, including the abolition of the MN Environmental Protection Agency’s Citizen’s Board;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_\_\_ party supports legislation that would require public notification of a Conference Committee adoption vote 12 hours prior to this vote, and require this committee to provide an opportunity for public testimony.