

this year deals with education, when the time comes to make decisions on who is going to get the money, you know, I'm going to welcome some priorities from the education sector of this body. The fact of the matter is this is a funding matter. You know, right now, you know, we've all heard the discussion between Senator Warner and the Governor if there is \$18 million to spend this year or \$37 million to spend this year, well, those are...that's just...those proposals are still in the committee process. You know, as of right now there's something like \$40 million worth of bills that have General Fund impact on General File. Some decisions have to be made. Now it's easy for some committees to just look at things in principle and not worry about the funding. Unfortunately, on Appropriations Committee sometimes it's not always fun but we have to make those decisions and this year particularly those are going to be some difficult decisions and I think the Appropriations Committee is the proper committee to make those decisions in setting priority for funding. I don't care how you cut it, the question at hand in this bill is whether or not the state can afford it. Sure, there's a certain issue of whether or not...what they're going to change out in Curtis but it's all going to come back to whether or not there is the dollars available for it and that decision should be made by the Appropriations Committee. For that reason, I rise to oppose this motion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud moves the previous question. I do see five hands. Thank you. The question is, shall debate cease? Those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate now ceases. Senator McFarland, for closing.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and fellow senators, I appreciate your courtesy and your consideration in hearing the arguments advanced this morning on this bill. I do think it's an important issue. I will just ask you at this moment, just for the sake of argument and for the sake of clarity, forget