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LB 149

think that we also need to be very explicit about what kind of...if we are going to do this, this part of 149, which is to cede our appropriating responsibility to a process, then we also better have in place some auditing mechanism so that we can feel comfortable that in the future these kinds of problems are not going to continue and...and that we don't ever have a situation where we are...where \$600 million of our budget is just being automatically parcelled out and that we don't know that we are not having any of the problems that have led us to LB 149. If we are going to go on to this sort of autopilot system, then at least...and where we are not involved in the...the appropriation in an affirmative way, then we better make sure that we have a...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...process in...in response that allows us to examine it and make sure that we are not having the same kinds of problems that led us to...need to respin this year. So I will be looking at and would love to have any kind of input that you might have in how we go about auditing this process if we choose to adopt the part of LB 149 that is the autopilot part which sets...sets the amount without a direct oversight by the Legislature. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, I was not going to turn my light on until I just heard some of the comments and thought I...I...it really is necessary to point out a correction. If those of you who heard Senator Brown say that this puts us on autopilot, we are on autopilot. Let me tell you and go...walk through this carefully so you understand this, and if you will listen as to why we are on autopilot one more time, I will tell you. In November, currently, Tom Bergquist looks at the numbers and gives the number to the Department of Ed, the amount of money that will be certified to schools. If we do LB 149, actually, by setting that local effort rate, that is more of an exact number. But he gives that to the Department of Ed in November and, Senator Brown, he gives that to them in November; December schools are certified their aid. It's done. It's over. They are certified their aid. Then the Governor is