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FLOOR DEBATE

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today is the deficit bill and that is for the current year's budget, and I wanted to turn your attention to page 66 in your blue book and that is the deficit proposals for...for this, in LB 538. There's a listing in this booklet of what we have done. It's a net increase for this year's current budget of \$10,850,440. I don't know whether to go into any great detail as you go down there. The top of the line is that fund shift--cost allocation plan that has to do with Health and Human Services. The second one is the county juvenile evaluation costs. That is a lawsuit that we lost filed by the counties, in this case Lancaster County, of \$3.7 million. Page 66, for those of you that are still looking where we're at, a \$2.9 million hit on emergency assist (assistance) audit. That had to do with the use of funds, federal funds, that were corrected in an audit that was made. Increase in Medicaid eligibles, \$2.9 million; utilities increase, \$2 million; emergency psychiatric care for Region VI, a million and a half; and so on down the line to lesser numbers. You will notice at the bottom of the page, on that page again, once again on page 66, we did have some additional money come in, if you will. Homestead exemption is \$2.9 million of unused funds which return to the General Fund or which will, in essence, be returned to the General Fund as unspent; and also we did not use the jail reimbursement to the extent that it was allocated in the A bill a year ago, and that's \$6.8. So we have a net deficit of \$10,850,000 in additional spending for this year's current budget. In essence, that's it. There's a little more detail on those pages, on the next page, if you'd like to see the chronology. I don't know how much more to say on that, but I would take questions in that particular area. Once again, this is the deficit bill only at this point. We will take up in order then the salary bill, the constitutional officers' salary; the Cash Reserve Fund transfers, which we will go into great detail on another bill; and then the mainline budget bill, which will be LB 543.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized, as Chair of the committee, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yeah, I, in essence, was talking about the committee amendments as I have explained here on page 66. Those are the current recommendations from the Appropriations