

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2002 LB 1309

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate ceases. Senator Redfield, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for a call of the house, please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: There has been a request to place the house under call. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The house is under call. Would all members please return to the Chamber and record your presence. Senator Redfield, I will let you continue with your closing at your leisure.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Again, I would say the choices before us are not easy. There is not a single program that we have not looked at this year that we do not value and I hear discussion about things that we could do, we could have done them in the past but we didn't. Are we sure we will do them next year? Maybe. If we do, maybe we will plug \$15 million of that hole but the fact remains when we look in the out-years we are looking at a 410 million dollar hole, and we are looking this year at a hole between the Revenue proposal and the Appropriations proposal of an additional \$8 million. We have to find a way to do it and we have to find a way to do it now. And when our budget goes into effect, if it has an E clause, it will be immediately; if it's later, it will be 90 days; and at that point it will start coming out of the taxpayers pockets. And you know what? They are not going to care about what we're going to do someday. They are going to care about what we did today. I'm not saying that this is where your priority should be. I am saying this is sharing the priority. This is a compromise. It is \$4.4 million. It still is a growth of almost \$16 million over the appropriation for this year. This is not a cut to the university. It is a cut in