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FLOOR DEBATE

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the General Fund financial status as of this time. And you will see that currently we have a surplus for this year, but in the year 2008-2009 you will see that there proposes a deficit of \$270 million. This is not unusual. Usually we have this kind of a deficit in the out years. And if you will look down on the line that talks about, which is line--if I had my glasses I would tell you for sure--34; on 34 it talks about revenue growth projections. And as of now, as you see, last year it was 9.5 percent, 7.7 percent increase in gross revenue. Now using as they do the historic average criteria, you will see that the Fiscal Office is projecting 3.9 percent for the latter part of this year and early part of next year and then 2.3 percent of revenue growth, which means a very serious reduction in the amount of revenue that's anticipated. But this is the historic average. As I've told you before, the historic average over about a 25-year period has been growth of about 5.1 to 5.2 percent. We've been way above that, and the way the Fiscal Office takes care of this on the historic average criteria, is that they say if it's up now it's going to go down in order to meet that historic average. So they always project this in the future. So, I just want to call your attention to the fact that that succeeding \$270 million deficit two years from now is based upon that reduction in revenue which hasn't actually been shown in fact, but it is shown in history. So that's why they bear that in mind, and that's why we show that as an out-year projection of income loss. We will, as I said, have a current, complete story about this as soon as the Legislature has adjourned and the Fiscal Office has had a chance to complete that, and that will be mailed to you. But I just wanted you to have something to take with you as you leave to go home, and this will give you a current status of where we are now are, and hopefully, will bring it up to date completely within the next few days. But thank you very much for your attention.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Don Pederson. We will now proceed to resolutions. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first resolution, LR 441, was originally introduced by Senator Kremer and a number of members. Pursuant to its introduction it was referred to Reference Committee who in turn referred it to the Committee on