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LB 42

SENATOR CULLAN: \$30,000 per month is used in the grade crossing protection fund and as I said earlier, they have not expended all of that each year so many times, as I understand it, that lapses because they don't spend all the money from the gas tax that is appropriated to them apparently.

SENATOR COPE: Now this is expected to go on for how many years? Is there any idea of how long we will have to continue it?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator, I am not sure. I think the need is going to be significant for a number of years. How long that would continue, I am not sure.

SENATOR COPE: I think the idea is very very good. Of course, I, too, worry about the gas tax when our roads are in the conditions that they are and we are putting another cent, however, on the other hand when someone is killed that is a pretty good reason for having these crossings and as many as possible. So I certainly will support you on this, Senator Cullan.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you wish to be recognized on the bill?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Senator Cullan, a question on this, the flashing lights and crossarms. This applies only to that type of a safety device. It doesn't apply to just the flashing lights. Correct?

SENATOR CULLAN: There are numerous safety devices that could be used but this would not apply to overpasses or underpasses that would be constructed. I don't know what all the safety devices may be put up. I think sometimes flashing lights or crossing arms or sometimes even signs can be...can come from this. I'm not sure, but it does allow them some flexibility.

SENATOR MARESH: But the fiscal impact statement applies only to the crossarms, right?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, that is correct and I think that is where most of the funds would be used.

SENATOR MARESH: Now there is a greater impact because of this. You are increasing another 2½%. Correct? So it would be half of \$112,000 additional fiscal impact. Correct?