

April 9, 1979

LB 589

state aid for the mental retardation regions and the percentage, like percentage increase for mental health regions. Department of Public Welfare is exactly the...approximately the Department's request adjusted only slightly. Historically we recommend the level of funding that the agency requests for their programs, aid programs. There was some reduction made by the committee in the operational cost, however, of the agency. The Department of Roads is a cash fund. The only general fund involved is for the aid for public transportation. That is recommended in this bill at the same level as the previous year. The Department of Veterans Affairs, a continuation budget. We did eliminate one position that had not been filled for a number of years and took the funding out of it. The Department of Water Resources essentially is a continuation budget with the stream gauging program continued as it has been for the last several years. The Department of Military, Agency 31, is essentially a continuation budget with one exception. We did transfer to this agency an equivalent amount of general fund money that goes for the tuition credit granted members of the National Guard. In turn, the Guard then would reimburse the University, state colleges and technical community colleges for the tuition waivers that are now handled within each of the institutions. There was a couple of reductions made in their requests, one in their recruiting and retention program of \$100,000 which was \$500,000. They have not used anywhere near that level and it was reduced back to in keeping with what they normally expend and their was also a reduction of \$25,000 for incentive aid in recruiting retention which normally or previously had appropriated \$75,000. This was reduced again more near to reflect what they have been expending. The Department of Educational Lands and Funds deals with only the state surveyor and the operation of that office due to an Attorney General's opinion we no longer will be appropriating the other funds that the Department of Educational Lands and Funds have under their responsibility as they are trust funds and as such are not subject to appropriation by the Legislature. In the case of the Game and Park Commission, the level of recommendation in total by the committee is about \$70,000 less than recommended by the Governor and about \$250,000 less than requested by the agency. If you will look at the yellow sheet, there are a number of items that the committee approved and deleted from the budget but it is a relatively minor percentage increase in their total general fund operation. Library Commission, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, is essentially a continuation budget. The only major increase was a reflection of some of their communication costs with other library and this is because of increase in