

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...I would hope that some outside entity might be a part of that study, so it just isn't all in house. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, Senator Lynch on deck.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Moore's amendment, and I think he made it crystal clear, but so that it is clear what I am voting for. He is allowing the money to stay there for a study but the \$3,162,000 is not going to be appropriated, and I think that is something we need to do, Senator Moore's amendment. There have been a number of articles about the items added to LB 813. This would be more difficult to justify than any one of those items we added because there was an actual program that the money was there for. In this instance, money is being appropriated without anybody being able to show a need for it, and the public would ask, well, if the need has been shown, why have a study? I think the study should be conducted by a third party and, by that, I meant an outside interest, and we should look at the matter comprehensively. The Appropriations Committee has taken a piecemeal approach. The Corrections Department, when they came here with their offerings or askings, came with a piecemeal approach. I had said earlier, and I want it in this part of the discussion also, that Mr. Gunter acknowledged to me that guards need more training, and that they need a better salary, which everybody knows, but there has been no money requested for that. And I told him if he would ask for that kind of money, I would be in the forefront of trying to get that. I understand that in the operation of the facilities, the people who do the work are the most important element. You can write all the rules that you want to, you can have as many people sitting in the administrative offices as you please, you can have a honey-toned director vising the minds of the Appropriations Committee for more money, but when the actual operation of the facility, whichever one it happens to be, has to be considered, you look at the people who are the guards. They are called corrections officers. And if they are not well-suited to do their job, we are just giving a first class facility for third class people to operate in and create additional problems for the Legislature to deal with. In order to not have to go into all of those kind of questions, namely, why are you doing the less important and