

column it's headed Table 2, there is a total of 2.6 million that came from the severance tax that went to the...to the energy office and from that the funds were distributed in six different areas. Under the bill, as it is proposed, the only amount that will be transferred is the collection fee of 1 percent that's charged, a maximum of 250,000 for the administration of the energy office in this area, a maximum of the regulatory assistance that the energy department gives the municipal gas fund but not to exceed 30,000. And then from...with the passage of this bill, a two point...what has been 2.3 million from the severance tax will continue to stay in the school...the permanent school fund and would no longer be transferred under this previous act which is scheduled, in any event, to be repealed. The bill...or rather the agency when they originally came in did not have dollar caps, it was just an amount to be appropriated for these functions and plus they retained a couple of the operations of the Revenue Department and the gasohol which was really inappropriate for the severance tax and those we did not include in the bill as it was drafted and, as I indicated earlier, where they just had...the original draft indicated just an amount to be appropriated, we put in an amount to be appropriated not to exceed a dollar amount so that it would take a substantive change in law to appropriate an amount greater than the amount specified. I would move adoption of the committee amendments. And I have, in essence, explained the bill. Would be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, did you wish to speak about the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, I really have a question, I think, and I think Senator Warner did a good job of explaining the bill but I think I would like to share with him a second what's probably my ignorance on this whole situation and then have him correct me if I'm making any errors in my understanding. I would like to start back a little further than 727. As I understand it, Senator Warner, originally the severance tax money went into the school fund. Then a few years ago the Legislature passed a school weatherization program, took portion of the money that went to the school fund and used that to fund school weatherization programs. That's item two, I guess, in the chronology. Item three was when I first got down here, maybe the second or third year I was here, there was a big battle over the reauthorization of the weatherization program with Senators DeCamp, Wesely and Remmers, the principals in the