

sets up...allows school districts to set up a contingency fund to cover for losses. Earlier this week, the end of last week, whenever it was, we filed an amendment. The intent of it was to limit the amount in that contingency fund to no more than 5 percent of a school district's budget, so that there would be some cap. It couldn't just become a slush fund. The language we used was 5 percent of the General Fund balance. The General Fund balance, through the course of a year in a school district, deviates from sometimes upward to 60 percent maybe of their budget down to sometimes even in the red. So we found that that amendment, the short of it is that amendment was improperly drafted, and we need to pull that bill back from the Governor's Office, reconsider the final passage, return it to Select File, put on an amendment to make it right. It's all very simple and easy and the bill was a noncontroversial piece of legislation. We just need to bring it back from the Governor's Office in order to do the amendment properly. Would appreciate it if you'd vote to do so.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, would you care to discuss the motion?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, would Senator Withem yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, would you respond?

SENATOR WITHEM: Certainly.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Withem, did the Governor's Office threaten to veto this bill unless these changes were made, or...

SENATOR WITHEM: Pardon me?

SENATOR ABOUD: I said, did the Governor's office threaten to veto the bill unless these changes were made?

SENATOR WITHEM: No, no. The Governor's Office, I don't even know if they've gotten around to reviewing the bill. To tell you very honestly and directly what happened, the bill was one that was being pushed very strongly by the Lincoln Public Schools. The legislative representative for the Lincoln Public Schools came to me, this morning, and said that their business manager had reviewed the Final Reading language of the bill and pointed out the problem with it. She brought it to our