

Board. They are not statutory or legally binding upon this body. By the same token, we have, at least since the projection board was established, we have accepted those figures as being the figures which the Legislature and the Governor, for that matter, would abide by. In my opinion, it is certainly the desirable thing to do, even though statutorily we could assume, if we wish to, we could assume that there was going to be a different level of receipts than what is being projected, but that certainly, in my opinion at least, would be a very hazardous thing to do as I don't know that the 49 of us could come up with a single figure on which all of us could concur. So I would urge, as you consider overrides, that careful thought is given that we do not place ourselves in the position of making overrides to get us below that legally minimum required reserve of 3 percent. As you know, that will be a moving figure as 3 percent of the appropriations. As the appropriations go up as required by vetoes, then so will the dollar amount go up equal to 3 percent reserve. With the override of the small amount, why it hardly would show, but if it's a very larger amount or large amount, then it would have a definite impact. And, with those comments, the Appropriations Committee does recommend that the one override be made on 1039 (sic) for the reasons I earlier stated but primarily that there was a deficiency by definition caused by increases in local costs for those programs that could not and was not anticipated a year ago when the biennial budget was established.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion. Senator Smith, followed by Senators Scofield and Hall.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, first of all, I would like to thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing the importance of the override. It truly is an emergency situation and, if you recall, when I talked with you about this on the floor and we were able to add the additional money in on the floor, the Appropriations Committee was not aware of one of the issues surrounding the need for that increase and that was...one of them was the federal minimum wage increase that's going to be required and that's cumulative and going to result in about \$255,000 of the amount that we're asking for. The other one was that federal cut in funding which would take place in July and, believe me, this truly is an emergency because of the fact that when you talk about it isn't just the emergency for the area agencies, they will go on surviving. What it is is an emergency that's going to exist for