

overall, even though it isn't out of the state General Funds, per se, but it's probably going to be a higher cost because you're going to have these...the same costs, plus additional administrative costs by having so many subsections. And if we look at what we do as a government, one of our functions is to try to do what people can't do for themselves. Or if, in fact, we can do it in a centralized fashion and do it more efficiently than you could by having a smattering of separate entities out there, then that's probably the direction we ought to go. So I think the committee believed that we should have an Athletic Commissioner, whether he's Cash Funded or General Funded, and by virtue of that, therefore, killed the bill to eliminate that commission as being the most appropriate, most efficient way to go about overseeing these particular activities. That brings us down to...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: That brings us down to the dilemma we're in, and that being that since the committee killed that bill, and, again, we didn't do it to put the people's feet in the fire, to say now we have to fund it, we did it because we think this agency is justifiable, the costs are marginal, but they do, like I say, smack against some philosophical beliefs that are appropriate. Coming down the road, I believe, we're going to have to make some of these decisions. But from what I gained from that testimony, I believe the Athletic Commission is important to this state and needs to be funded, and hopefully in the future their cash funds will provide that support. But in the meantime, we will shore them up, as Senator Wesely alluded, had we not taken the 100,000 or so dollars away from them that we let lapse into the General Fund a few years ago, they probably would be still running and have enough of a principal base to continue for several years, even without a major upturn in their income level. But it is...it is an important group, and I believe that this body should support their existence and support it with the \$27,000...

SiEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...to make it work. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard the closing by Senator Conway. We will now vote on the amendment as offered by Senator Conway. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on