

addition, we have taken away 15 percent of their Cash Funds every year and put them away into the General Fund, a total of about \$4,000 a year, every year. So, for this biennium that's \$8,000 right there that we took away from them and put into the General Fund. If we hadn't been doing that, we probably wouldn't be here needing General Funds either. So I think the Appropriations Committee has, in some ways, created this problem themselves, by taking away the Cash Fund some years ago and by the fact that we have diverted this money over the years into the General Fund from their Cash Funds, as we have for other agencies. Now Senator Warner has a bill and the Health Committee has advanced it to stop the practice of taking, right off the top, 15 percent of Cash Funds and putting them into the General Fund. And so, hopefully, some day we'll stop that and we will be able to have different cash-funded agencies like the Athletic Commission fund themselves to a greater degree, that will diminish money into the General Fund but it's not, I think, an appropriate thing to keep doing over the years. I think, Senator Warner, obviously, has recognized that and that's why he introduced that bill. So I am saying, for a number of reasons, there's been little public notice about this and what public has been informed have been opposed to it. And, secondly, the whole fiscal problem is self-imposed by, I think, some actions that this body has taken in the past that we ought not to punish the Athletic Commission for things that are, in fact, not their own doing. So I would oppose this motion and ask you to oppose it as well and, hopefully, we won't spend a whole lot of time on this because I don't think it really deserves it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Conway, you're next.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members, I rise in opposition as well to the pulling of LB 1294 from the Government Committee's action. Several things I would like to raise then and I think yesterday in our discussion we raised some but were not necessarily all of the points and things were happening so quick, in many cases we didn't have all the particular information. The amount of Cash Funds that Senator Wesely alluded to that were moved out of the Athletic Commission over the years amounts to 125,000. There were...there was a \$50,000 increment. The next year we took another 50,000 and then a couple years later we took another 25,000, so that adds up to be \$125,000 that was removed from the Cash Funds and moved into the General Fund. As Senator Wesely pointed out, the 15 percent