

state proportionately to the 45 percent that's necessary to fund 1059. Currently, it's at 42.8 percent, I understand, without 1272, and you could have a couple of choices. In fact, I'm having the amendment drafted two different ways. One is that it would be at the level of 42.8 percent. The other way would be to address what the intent and the goal of 1059, which was 45 percent of the cost of education, of those items included in that 45 percent, which includes teacher salary, and that would require, as I understand it now, roughly \$55 million or the equivalent of a half percent of the sales tax to reach that 45 percent level. But if you think you're having an argument about shifting money this year between this program and...that is the whole support for K-12 and the rest of state government, it's going to be even a bigger argument next year. In fact, if LB 662 had been law now, Senator Robinson, LB 1272 wouldn't have been there because the million seven couldn't have been moved either.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: The million seven could have been moved within the provisions of 1059 but not to fund some other program. And if you want a long-term stability to a program, then I see no other way to do it than that kind of a separation of the funds as the...of the tax funds as they come in to the state. And, most certainly, it's going to be a necessity next year in addition as that proposed bill is drafted. The education provisions of 1059 carries its own reserve. The schools spend money faster than what the natural growth in receipts are because of the growth in the economy, then the necessity, if it is a necessity, to increase taxes to fund it will be single...singled out, as it ought to be, for that purpose. And unless we are willing to address that overall issue before next year, we are merely having debate that will be repeated and repeated and repeated until that kind of...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...a concept is adopted as a matter of public policy.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Before we go to our next speaker, we would like to announce that Senator Richard Peterson has some guests in the south balcony, Dr. Robert Cox and 15 students from Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Welcome to the