

is allocated for A bill, as I've stated, is roughly in the same ballpark as the Governor's recommended level of spending, and certainly within the 3 and 7 percent reserve, though I would admit that Senator Lamb is somewhat correct that it may not do as much as some would wish to prepare us for the future, but nevertheless now we're on Final Reading. And the one thing I would like to add before I withdraw this motion is the simple fact that this bill does take 33 votes to pass with the emergency clause. I think there's only 33 checked in at this time. A protest vote, like Senator Lamb's and whoever else may wish to join him, would seriously jeopardize the bill getting the necessary votes for the emergency clause and get things going for the...obviously without it we have a problem with making things balance. And so I understand Senator Lamb's frustration, but I also want to remind the body that the bill does need 33 votes with the emergency clause. With that, I withdraw the motion.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to return the bill for specific amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Like others, I will withdraw this, too. But since we started talking, I'm going to support the bill. But we're addressing the wrong problem, maybe part of the right problem, which is lower appropriations. The problem, and it's been the problem for the last decade, is too low a reserve. We cannot function on that minimum 3 percent reserve. The reason you cannot is the economy slows up a little, as it always will, and then improves, and when it slows up we end up with usually a combination of reducing the budget and some variety of tax increases to get us through. And then the economy improves, and we have more funds available, so then we can expand or start new programs instead of building up that reserve. There is legislation that's been pending for a long time to carry a more adequate reserve, put money aside in those good times. Had we followed that practice in the eighties, when we had four special sessions out of six years, had an adequate reserve, we would have had none of the special sessions, we would have had to make no cuts, and we could have ridden through each of those situations. The real ironic thing is if you look at next year, the biennium, as has been indicated, is 23.6 million, or