

funding for LB 144 and not require the Department of Economic Development to reallocate other funds that they have associated to other programs into LB 144. So the purpose of the amendment is to recreate the cash fund as originally in LB 144.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the body, I also rise again, unfortunately, to oppose the Maurstad amendment and, Senator Maurstad, just a little bit longer when you're on Appropriations a little longer you'll understand how the cash funds work and how they don't work. What we would have to do if we accept Senator Maurstad's amendment, we would have created a cash fund of which there is no cash going in. Cash funds are usually those types of funds that you have a fee. You collect the fee, it goes into the cash fund. The advantage of having a cash fund is that in the upcoming years if you don't spend it, it doesn't appear on the General Fund sheet, so it's basically as if there is new money or you're spending money that is not there. It's there, but it won't ever appear on the General Fund sheet. What the bill as it does now, it abolished the cash fund and General Funded the proposal and what we would then do is since it would be in the General Funds, it will appear on the green sheet, we will know the money is being spent and it won't be left over in a cash fund basis. If the Maurstad amendment was agreed to, not only would you not have as good of a check on it in the upcoming years, but you'd have to create the cash fund, do the General Fund, make the General Fund transfer into the cash fund and that's not necessary to do. In fact, it's not good policy to do. So I recommend that we stay with the bill the way it is. The money flows clearly, it's clearly identifiable and defeat the Maurstad amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Maurstad, your light is next. Senator Maurstad. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I too rise again in opposition to the Maurstad amendment. Again, Senator Bernard-Stevens has pretty well explained to you the reason why I think that it's...I have a real difficult time in supporting the amendment. I would like to get the bill obviously moved ahead and passed because I think it's a good