

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this were passed, we would not know. How would the Legislature know? I know the committee would know. Well, would the committee know even?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The Fiscal Office would know and they would probably pass that on to us as they do routinely all kinds of these kinds of things, that that money...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is the only reason this bill is being brought to reduce the amount of interest that might accrue while waiting for a bill to be presented through the legislative process?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That is potentially the biggest reason. There can be other reasons in terms of the simplicity of doing what is due back to the feds. I mean it simply makes it a simpler process. If it's money that's due them, then it's simply a matter of paying it back as soon as possible, which then avoids the interest, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and I'm not questioning that it has to be paid back.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't want any of my questions to be taken in that regard.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if a deficit appropriation bill comes to us, it may put us in a position, or some of us who have enough interest, to ask how this could have occurred in the first place, whether it could have been foreseen and perhaps prevented, but if this bill passes, we would not even be in a position to know that money was being returned.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that right?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that's true in this specific... I mean, you probably wouldn't know in this specific case because it is money that you could arguably say shouldn't have probably been taken