

a five-year period is 3.4 percent, which is within the ranges that everybody talked about. Of course aid is up 5.2 over a period of time. But we all know why that is, that also helps local governments or individuals, as the case may be. But state operations are certainly as recommended by the Appropriations Committee over the five-year period, certainly is staying within any bounds that we are talking about for other entities of government, that is it's less than 4 percent increase over that five-year period. But I would hope the body would consider this if you want the Appropriations Committee to take the action that I assume you want and give them the tools to do the job in a way that gives them the flexibility that they have to have, and not put them in the position where the only place they can make adjustments is in discretionary funds, which is a relatively small amount of the appropriation bill.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Warner. For discussion on the Warner amendment, Senator Hudkins, your light was on. Do you wish to speak? Senator Stuhr, on the Warner amendment. Senator Wehrbein, on the Warner amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members. I would support Senator Warner's amendment. I've tried to explain several times to many that have asked the...first of all, I'm going to start on page 14 of your blue book, if you'd look. Operations, these are the changes in the General Fund overview. Operations are up 4.26 percent. If you look at the...I used the average. If you look at the bottom of that table five, percent change for prior year. Operations go up 5.13, the first year is 3.39, the second...I averaged those, it may not quite technically be correct, but that's 4.26 we've...we are suggesting as an increase, 4.26 the average of 5.13 and 3.39. State aid is up 5.51, 4.52 and 6.5, and then construction is a little bit...if you notice that's down, some of it is up the first year because we put the amount of money in for Norfolk. My point is of the 5.64 increase in the '95-96, and the 4.90 in '96-97, which averages 5 percent, a big chunk of that is state aid, and 4.26 percent is operations. Now I'd like to have you look over to page 34, and notice that is General Fund state aid. Most of this essentially is off the table for us to do much about, either we take it away from the locals in the form of state aid, schools, special ed, on and on, if you look, or many of them are subject to...many if not all are subject to a