

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, Senator Witek, am I correct in that regard that if the director feels that certain programs are necessary but the Governor disagrees, the Governor nullifies those programs and they never take effect. Is that correct, of the ones that you're talking about beyond what we've listed?

SENATOR WITEK: I would...yes, that would be my intent.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you feel that the Governor has the type of expertise necessary to determine which programs are appropriate?

SENATOR WITEK: I'm not sure he needs specific expertise, I feel he has the good sense to confer with individuals who may have the expertise and then make his decision, his or her decision.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Who would be better able to give that advice than the director?

SENATOR WITEK: That is true, I'm not saying they'd necessarily make a bad decision. I'm just saying that you would also have the added benefit of approval by the Governor.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I think since the time is out I won't get you in the middle of a statement and then we get cut off.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pedersen, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do not support Senator Witek's amendment to give the Governor this authority. I think it ought to be put in statute and it ought to be left there. We don't need anybody else playing around with it, it needs to be done and I think most of you would agree. The programs that we already have in the prison, I've gone through here and circled some of them, and that's why the 487,000, which is not a small amount to most of us in here, but it is a small amount if we had to finance the entire program. There's already treatment offered in corrections. We have a wonderful treatment center being developed out at the airpark, NCTC, and it's up and going, it's already been financed. The behavior impairment programs, there's a psychologist already in the prison system, health and medical needs, education, there is no, by my understanding, no GED program at the Hastings Correctional Center, that's going to take some money. Fourteen thousand seven hundred and