

don't. And I think definitely spending the time on this, I know Senator McKenzie and others have spent a great deal of time trying to work through this, it's very valuable indeed because this is a very big part of the budget. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem (sic). Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I don't really know what I'm going to say here. Maybe I'll talk myself into it. Senator Bernard-Stevens, how much money did you...what does the amendment read as it is right this minute?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The amendment reads as follows, it's that any General Funds saved as a result of appropriating less than the \$127 million of General Funds in fiscal year '96-97 for special education reimbursement, shall be transferred to the Cash Reserve Fund. In other words, we show on the sheet \$6 million, that was at the 5 percent level of savings. We compromised and we're at the 2.5 percent level, which then put us up to \$9.2 million. So in essence we would transfer...we would be \$3,032,333 above the 6 percent we show on the sheet, that's the amount that I'd want to transfer into the Cash Reserve.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Into the Cash Reserve.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes. And there are...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...a lot of reasons for that, if I can just take another 15 seconds. There's no doubt in the future, in the next couple of years community-based programs are going to be coming up, we're going to be talking about prisons obviously at some point, and I'd just rather we put this money away rather than spending it on other occasions.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I don't have any problem with doing this. I don't know whether it's necessary though, it's up to the body. If you want to put it away I'm 100 percent for it. I don't sense that the mood of the body is necessarily to spend it. In these waning days I think there's some things out there that you're looking at that are already in line. But I don't necessarily see major issues of new spending. But on the other