

for a vote to the body, and I am going to yield some time to Senator Wehrbein to also explain what's going on here, but we wanted to make sure that there was a vote to the body on this A bill. We believe it's...the bill is in the shape now where the cost, at least in that first year of the biennium, can be absorbed by the department. They've indicated they'd have no problems doing that. With that, I would yield the balance of time to Senator Wehrbein.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein, you have four minutes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, I won't take very long, Madam Speaker and members. I had earlier talked about what the cost of the bill was, and Senator Lindsay, what Senator Lindsay says is possibly true in terms of cost. I am uncomfortable and I've tried to bring that up to the body each time whether they can eat it. You can only eat so much, quote, in an agency, and I just wanted to remind the body that if you vote to override, or to kill the bill, that's fine, but I will remind you also that as we put the mainline budgets together over the years, and some of that is true in LB 392, eventually these costs come back. And so the committee has put many of these dollar figures in over the years, and this...this is probably one that will come back, either next year as additional money, and/or a deficit also. So when we do what we do, it has a cost, and then nobody wants to recognize the cost. And that's why I urged Senator Lindsay, put this A bill in too, and I want to talk about it. We can make them eat it, but, remember, these agencies can only eat so many dollars and then it comes back to appropriations, then it comes to the body. The body says we don't want to spend any more money, and we are on the circle, merry-go-round. Sometimes it is not so much fun. But I just wanted to make some comments on that, but recall that this bill, which I will support, and I know you are too, but it has its costs, and the A bill will or the estimate, the estimate, not the A bill, but the estimate could mean by the year 2000 there could be a couple million dollars a year in this, or at least a million because of the increased incarceration time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Pedersen would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 40 fourth graders here from Joslyn Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska, with their sponsors. Will you all stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Wesely, your light is next, followed by