

CLERK: Madam President, I'm now returning back to amendments that were passed over earlier this morning. The next amendment I have, Senator Wehrbein, from you, AM3734. I think it is one...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Lindsay, you have the next amendment, Senator, AM3769. (See page 1228 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Lindsay to open on his amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, members. This amendment will revisit, or maybe more correctly extend the discussion that took place yesterday. The amendment, yesterday we talked about adding modular, modular housing at the state penitentiary to assist in handling the prison overcrowding issue. The amendment that was adopted would add two 100-bed units. What this amendment would do is to move that from two 100-bed units to three 100-bed units, an increase of about one, point, just under 1.8 million from the 3.7 that it is now to about \$5.5 million. The problem we have, as we discussed extensively yesterday, is that we have a prison population that is increasing with very little end in sight on those increases, and certainly I think we know from, at least the way I guess I've voted the last few years, I don't necessarily agree with the increase in the prison population. But once we have that prison population there, we do have a duty to provide adequate space. We do have a duty to make sure that when people are committed to the correctional institutions that we don't have such an overcrowding problem that we invite federal court intervention or invite civil rights lawsuits by inmates challenging the conditions caused by the prison overcrowding. There should be getting copied now a couple of graphs that show you, and they came from the Department of Correctional Services, that show you what our prison population trend is and how that would be impacted by the addition of...the first chart will show by the addition of 200 beds and how it would be impacted by the addition of 300 beds. To an extent, to an extent I concur, I guess, with what Senator Maurstad was discussing yesterday, and that is that clearly this is a stopgap sort of measure. There is no question about that. We do have a need, and probably an