

Day at the Capitol. Will you all stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Wehrbein to speak to the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members. I am going to oppose this. Perhaps we don't have the best excuse in the world, we just were trying not to spend any more money than we had to spend, Senator Bernard-Stevens. There was money in this last year; it was vetoed out. We did not override the second year, as he explained, and so there is actually a reduction and there was very limited discussion in the committee about it. There was not actually a formal request for it. We discussed it very briefly and went on. We had a lot of pressure for increased spending in a many areas. This is one area we decided not to do. And, obviously, it depends on where you read, we spent too much in many people's mind and we didn't spend enough in other people's mind. This was one of our decisions where we did not increase the spending. We let the override stand and I oppose his amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, if you look at the number of pages in LB 1189, the green copy, you will find 114 pages. We could go through a budget bill and reduce what is on each page by less than a thousand dollars and come up with this amount and that could easily be done with any of these programs. We could take that amount away and not hurt any of these other programs, because on some of these pages there would be tremendous amounts of money from which that small amount could be taken. When we talk about spending all of this money to lock people up, it takes away money from other worthwhile programs. I would like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, you are aware that the amount that Senator Bernard-Stevens is seeking is less than \$74,000.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.