

the committee amendments to LB 299 is actually a...are parts, perhaps, of several other bills that were introduced before with similar type of approaches but moderated in order to fit the proposal as it is being presented to the Legislature. The concept in LB 299 was several things, one, it was that there would be a restricted in the growth in expenditures, 2 percent this coming year, 0 percent the following year; that there would be three specific exceptions that would not be covered, one of which was capital improvements, which are defined, expenditures in support of jointly financed services for those first two years. And, again, that too was intended to provide another incentive to encourage people to look at...or governing boards to look at ways in which, through consolidation and mergers, cooperative efforts, the costs could be more cost-effective for the operation. And then it also allowed for unused budget carry-over between the two years. I should indicate that after this there are some amendments that have been discussed, as we go through this, as there was some in the committee. I believe there will be amendments, as they are filed. There are amendments that will increase those percentage of growth to 3 and 1 with a "supervote" of the majority. There is an amendment which will pull special ed out, both on the expenditure and the receipt side, which there's justification for that when we get to it. There will be an adjustment in the unused budget authority permitting the picking up of prior years. The balance is...the committee amendment as drafted is only between the two years, and then there's amendments relative to limitations after the two-year period in which this bill is effective as to schools and I'll let the introducer explain those. In addition, over the weekend this is an expenditure limitation. As it came out of committee it was the position, I believe, of most of us that what we were trying to looked at, across the state as a whole, was the reduction in expenditure of funds, operation of government, that we should be using total expenditures. During the time that we were working in committee and since a great deal of time...effort has gone in on the definition of some of these expenditures as to those that should or should not be out, the bill as it was... The amendment as it was drafted did make a number of exceptions, such as revenue from enterprise functions that were not used for general operation of local government, that would be such things perhaps as electrical service, a variety of things that would fall under that category. Federal aid was not included, grants were not used, included transfers from other funds, additional revenue to