

that institution and others, and I worked with the Fiscal Office, eventually worked with the Governor's Office and worked with the Correctional Department itself to decide if there was some way we could pare down the amount of overtime so that we could fund some more officers for the correctional facilities. What the amendment is, it is sort of a compromise on all of that which would add six security staff at approximately \$22,500 apiece within \$6,000 worth of benefits and it would come out of the overtime expense dollars. Now, just for a little background I would like to tell you that the overtime expenditure shown on this chart, \$265,000 of them for Fiscal Year '95, is certainly not all the overtime. If you look at other figures, totally, there was an additional \$541,000 in overtime last year, and I am rounding these figures off, to make overtime expenditures \$879,000. I might also add that estimates are going to be about the same for this year. So all I am trying to say is, even if we take some of this overtime and put it into correctional officers, we are still going to have overtime monies there. We won't be in danger of not being able to fund overtime. We are still going to have to have overtime because I guarantee you, these six additional officers do not come near fulfilling the number of correctional officers that are needed in the Department of Corrections. I have seen some figures that say that last year the department requested 73 more FTEs in the correctional facilities and the Governor and the Legislature did fund approximately half of those. But, they're short and they will continue to be short, I believe, as we open more facilities. So, all... I guess all I am wanting to ask you to do is just shift some of this overtime money into paying some more correctional officers. It is not any additional funds, we are not going to be asking for any more general funds, we are just trying to shift our priorities here a little bit. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I rise to support the Schimek amendment. I think it is reasonable to do what she wants to do. It simply transfers or not transfers, but adjusts the budget within the categories and within the fund so that there can be more hired with less overtime. It makes some sense to do. So, I thereby support it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Is there any further