

when we do...when we do not get some of those dollars we the Legislature are going to have to decide whether or not to put General Fund dollars into those programs that we already assumed we would get the federal dollars for. What Senator Brown's amendment would do, if you reconsider it, would say that we're going to take the money that's not there and put it into another account, the Cash Reserve Account. And when the federal dollars do not come in for us to make the decision to spend the money that's not there it will take us two votes to do that. If you do not do the Brown amendment, the money that's not there is still in the regular account that we have, and if the federal dollars do not come in it will...we can then react to that by saying we want to spend more General Fund dollars now to do it. We may want to spend some Cash Reserve...cash dollars to do so, but it takes us one vote, it is much more convenient and easier for us to respond to. I might also point out that Senator Brown did not mention, and again it was because she did not have the time to do so, that we are going to deal with the problem Senator Brown talked about in LB 1290. LB 1290 changes LB 38 which allowed that transfer to take place to deplete the account. When 1290 passes, and I believe it should pass, it is a good piece of legislation, now that I totally understand it, but when 1290 passes it will be a one-way street. So when revenues come in higher than projected they will automatically go into the Cash Reserve Account that Senator Brown is trying to put dollars...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that are nonexistent there. We will then, after 1290 passes, put those dollars there, they'll be real dollars. That account will begin to grow. Where we used to do it when dollars were below, we would automatically transfer monies from the Cash Reserve into the General Fund to make up for the projection dollars that were low. That will no longer take place under LB 1290. So the problem of the zero of the depletion is going to be taken care of by 1290. I don't think we want to put ourselves in a position of taking money that's not there, putting it into a place so that when money that we hope will get there does not arrive, that it's more difficult for us to react to that. I don't think the Legislature should put itself in that position. And that, my friends, is the rest of the story. I rise in opposition to the reconsideration motion.