

estimation, a disruption in the cash flow. One, a risk that we don't have to take at all. And it does make it, Senator Brown is correct, easier for the Legislature to respond to a deficit situation. Senator Brown is correct, it is harder to do it her way. [It my point is that we, the Legislature, have to have the flexibility that is as easy as possible to respond the way that we want to respond. If we don't want to spend the money next year, we don't do it. If we want to spend the money next year, we do do it. But there is an inherent risk on what Senator Brown is doing on the cash flow. There is no rationale for it. Senator Brown gives the argument that the account has been at zero. She's right, it's been at zero since October. Has the sky fallen in yet? No, because we're not talking about the 3 percent minimum reserve. We're not talking about that. Will it always be at zero? No, when 1290 passes that account will continue to grow, and that will be our...the account that's growing to help us deal with the deficit when the federal government balances its budget, when the other things of property tax come in, that will be the fund that's beginning to grow. And you will not have a deletion or depletion of the account because it's only going to be a one-way street on 1290. Senator Brown wants to sock money away, so do I, that's why we support 1290. This approach however is not necessary, it is not necessary. And I hate to see the Legislature throw all of its prerogatives and all of its flexibility away on money that is not even technically there, it just doesn't make sense to do. And I would strongly urge the body not to adopt this amendment, it will not affect the budget...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...greatly, the Brown amendment will not do us any good that I can see, there's only potential harm and there's no reason to do it. So please vote no on the Brown amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I do see the hands. Question is, shall debate cease on the adoption of the Brown amendment? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.