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LB 149

that can be spent, but it can't be spent if you want to keep to, for example, 3.2 percent overall spending growth. Well, what I...I had set out there for you one of the...one of the scenarios. I had...I'd kind of pencilled in a bracket there on the 3.5 percent. What if we focused eventually on 3.5 percent, which is kind of halfway between Senator Brown's suggestion and the maximum amount of money we could spend, which is all the way down here at 4 percent, if you wanted to take a middle ground? Well, what would happen then, you could still, at 3.5 percent, spend 15 million for A bills, you could still do that, but what will happen is that the amount of money in reserves or what you could use if you wanted to reduce revenues which, of course, affects your balance, you could use it for either purpose, that would be reduced by this \$20 million. It's estimated to be closer to 20 million now, as I understand it, and not 22, so let's call it 20 million. That 20 million would reduce the amount available for revenue bills and reserves. So you'd still have the same amount in A bills, but you would have a smaller pot of money left over to assist you in future years or to deal with revenue reduction bills. Hopefully, we won't have many of those this year. So it would reduce from 50 million to 30 million that amount of money available as an additional cushion which you would not spend. So if you took...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...3.5 percent, you could choose to not spend \$30 million that's there to be spent, discipline yourself to a 3.5 percent increase, and still have \$15 million for A bills. So that's kind of how the 20 million in 149 fits in. It reduces...it reduces the pot of money, but you can still get the 3.5 percent or so and have 15 million for A bills. I just wanted to point that out. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion on the bracket motion, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members, listening to some of the discussion, I thought it was important to point out a couple of things. I was listening to Senator Brown say that she thought that this was too much to absorb. I want to reemphasize, in a short time, that we will obviously not be