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LB 149

And I want to make sure people are real clear now and I don't want to bog the bill down but, at the same time, I don't want people walking out of here with the misunderstanding that we can, at some point in time when we do these changes, that we can't reduce the amount of appropriations, and that's...I mean I think that's...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I see.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...what you and I are trying to visit about here, is if you want to make that change we need to do that in the statute, whether it's on 149, whether that's on another bill, but you can't flick off the autopilot without it even today. I'm...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: And I know my time is short and I would yield it back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized on the Brown amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I would say, first of all, Mr. President, members of the body, that's been my understanding for a long time. We have the statute. If you're going to make a change in this, we have to change the statute. There has to be a bill introduced; wording has to be changed. Appropriations is simply...takes the certified number and that is what we appropriate. And so what has been stated up to now by Senator Kristensen I would consider accurate. I simply want to also comment on the amendment, getting back to Senator Brown's amendment. I believe February 1 is more realistic than March 1. I...my sense is that we can always wait longer for more accurate figures, and that is true in what...a lot of things that we do. But sooner or later you have to make a decision. You have to have a number and it has to be something that those that follow, when we're setting policy, those that follows...following our policy have to be...have reliable numbers, at least as reliable as that we can get them so that they can react. And I have not been on a school board for many, many years, but I am in sympathy with the fact that they have to start making these