

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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error, I'm not sure, but Senator Wehrbein wasn't clear on what I said earlier about the cost of this bill and whether it was...whether it was reflected in the budget. I hope I said earlier that it was my recollection anyway, and I think this is correct, that the Governor had included the cost of his bill, which was about \$8 million, in his package. Senator Wehrbein tells me that that amount wasn't actually in the Governor's budget proposal; that it is usual that the cost of these kind of programs are included or carried by an A bill, and I hope I'm stating this correctly now, Senator Wehrbein, so there isn't any misunderstanding on my part of the misunderstanding on the part of the members of the body. The cost of this bill is not in the status or in the preliminary report that the Appropriations Committee gave to the body, so Senator Beutler again is correct that advancing this bill means that you have dollars that are going to compete against other dollars in the budget, and that a little later in the session we're going to have to reconcile those competing needs. And we may debate this bill again on Select File when we again have a better idea of what those competing needs are. I'm completely comfortable this morning advancing this bill, recognizing that it still has to fight its way through the rest of the process and compete against other issues and other needs. That's the way this place works. Doesn't bother me. But I do think we ought to advance the bill today so it can continue to compete with those other needs, and we ought to advance it in the form that was suggested to you by the committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The question before us is part two of the divided committee amendments to LB 179. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on the second component of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is adopted. Further discussion on the advancement of LB 179? Senator Preister, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. Thank you to the members of the body who have stuck with the debate, and I