

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 19, 1999

LB 637A, 637

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Baker, I now have AM1886. (AM1886 is found on page 2250 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This amendment's a little more controversial. I haven't run it past Senator Brown, but I will try and explain it briefly. This is in Section 4 of the A bill, which is dealing with the CHARTS, the computer system. And as I talked to Senator Wehrbein on this, this opens up more questions on the JUSTICE part of it and I am...I do not have an amendment dealing with the JUSTICE section of this, but all these computer programs of...were...in the case of JUSTICE, I believe that was started in 1989 and they're still asking for \$200,000 to finish it, and that has nothing to do with my amendment though. I'm pointing that out to say that these things should have been done years ago and apparently they're still...they're using (LB) 637 now to try and get CHARTS up, HHS is, when, in fact, it was a program that was funded years ago and all of a sudden (LB) 637 comes along and they say, well, we need another \$2 million one fiscal year and close to that another year to...the second year of the budget to get it finished up. Well, I don't buy that. I think they need to go ahead and finish it up the way it is. I believe there's...I've lost track, there's so many figures there, 40 counties that are not up on JUSTICE and a bunch of them are not yet going on CHARTS. But this addresses the CHARTS portion of the A bill, their request, and what it does is on page 3, line 3, it strikes the 6.7 million dollar figure and inserts 4.7, it takes 2 million dollars out of that; and the second year of the funding it strikes the 5.8 million and inserts 4.615 million, and that's a cut of 2 million dollars in the fiscal year, first fiscal year of General Fund money. It leaves alone all the federal money. You have to understand that there's \$4 million of federal money directed to this the first year and \$2.79 million of federal money the second year. What I'm saying with this amendment is you need to get this CHARTS system up and running with what you have, the finances, resources you have. It should have been going before now, and this is just holding their feet to the fire. I really think that, rather than say here's some more money to try and fix the problem, it should have been done before now and you're going to