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LB 881

as LB 881, in order to get it out. It's a more conservative practice that we put into effect a long, long time ago whenever we had extra money, and we can do it right now. And by the way, you all have been even better than that in the sense that in the mainline appropriation bill...nobody took note of it, but we put \$25 million into the Reserve Fund, because we knew we were going to have probably at least that much extra. So we've already transferred \$25 million into the Reserve Fund. If we could transfer this amount, which turns out to be extra now that the year is over, into the Reserve Fund, we will essentially have put into the Reserve Fund this year as much money as the Governor is going to take out this first round. And that would be a good thing. So I would advocate this amendment to you. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. You've heard the opening. To speak to the Beutler amendment, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment, which may seem odd to you, because I share some of the concerns that Senator Beutler has about the Cash Reserve. However, I don't agree with Senator Beutler's characterization, and I think we need to put our thinking caps on here this morning, because we're about to go off into deep water here. And maybe your thinking cap will need a snorkel, but you do need to have your thinking cap on to address the issues that Senator Beutler is raising. I don't agree with Senator Beutler that we have three reserves. We in fact have two, and he described those to you. One is the minimum reserve. The part of the discussion that I think that Senator Beutler left out is that the minimum reserve by statute can vary between three and seven percent. Now, it's true that if we have money that is above the three percent minimum, that there is "excess" money in the minimum reserve. But it's only excess above the minimum. It isn't excess above the maximum, which is seven percent. So it seems to me to make very little difference, from that standpoint, whether money is held in the minimum reserve or the Cash Reserve. The only difference is that once monies are placed in the Cash Reserve, that it requires an additional bill to take money out of the Cash Reserve, and another bill to appropriate the dollars. If they are simply left in the minimum reserve, it only requires an