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LB 76A, 76

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The issues that have been raised and with all these debates we sometimes tend to get focused away from what the real purpose here. The real purpose is this is a motion to override the veto of an A bill. The crucial question becomes, is this a valid appropriation? Can you override this and have a valid appropriation of money to the Crime Commission? And the answer is clearly, yes, you can. You have intent language in the mainline budget. It is intent language. It doesn't go into the statutes. It is a direction of what to do with the money. The same thing will hold true here. This money is going into the program. If you look in the statute, the Crime Commission has the authority to carry out those studies. Now, could the Crime Commission go and spend that money on something else? Perhaps so, because the money is going into that program unit. So what do you do? You look at intent. Where is the intent drawn? It's drawn on floor debate. It's the transcript of what we're doing today. The intent here, as I've understood it from the people who are the principal introducers and the principal movers of the bill, that their intent with this money, and I don't hear any objections to that, is for that money to be spent for that program for a study. Now the only rule that talks about A bills talks about bills that are being finally read. And the reason that you don't read an A bill is because of Rule 5 and Section 6(g), and that says the authorization bill, and that's the underlying bill, shall be first considered and, if it should pass on Final Reading, then the A bill shall be read and voted on for final passage. That rule applies for Final Reading and that's the reason that you read the underlying bill first followed by the A bill. We are here on an override. The issue truly isn't what happened to LB 76. The issue is, is this a valid appropriation? Does this A bill have any meaning or any impact if you override it? And I think the clear reading of the rules is that it does. It's a valid appropriation. And so I know that we may be considered about...concerned about precedent, but you take these, and I think it's a very consistent reading of the rules that we're not dealing with Final Reading, we're dealing with an override situation as to whether this bill can go forward. My reading of the rules, it's clear that you can do that. Now, the \$100,000, is that cemented and absolute guaranteed for the study? In all honesty, I don't think that you can say that, but I sure wouldn't want to be the