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LB 1217

where we have to ask ourselves, is this something that would be nice to do? Is this something that we would like to be able to do? Or is this something that has to be done? Especially in view of some unknowns out there, I don't know what impact the inflation and the price of fuel is going to have on down the line. I don't know whether it's going to rain or not. And some of those things we won't know as we get to the end of the session, but I don't feel good about putting ourselves in a position where we might be substantially below our minimum reserve. I would not feel good about that, and there are some individual reasons on some of these things. Senator Chambers articulated one item that gives me great concern. There has been a point in the past where I remember very well the university asking us to give them a budget and let them work with it. Basically, let's not micromanage and they will take X amount of dollars and they will work with it. This flies in the face of that. Maybe it was bad underwriting advice. Maybe it wasn't foreseen. I don't know, but the policy of one substantial part of our state employees, meaning the university, paying 9 percent of their contribution on health insurance versus what our state employees pay begs for rationale. The university, themselves, are going to do a study on this between now and January. LB 1217 includes the amendment which has the Governor appoint a 20-member task force to look at the health insurance costs, not only of the university, but all of the other educational institutions that we support,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...as well as state employees and come back with some suggestions and recommendations this fall. I would suggest to you that next legislative session those of us who are back will have an opportunity to react to this need, if it has to happen, and I would suggest we wait on the results of those studies. I will not support the blanket motion to override. There might be one or two items in here, if we get the opportunity, I could support but I'd want to listen to all the arguments first, and so I would urge the body not to support this motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham.