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LB 1213

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I may just mutter, but nevertheless, I'm going to mutter out loud. I join Senator Beutler in a concern about the process. And I invite Senator Bohlke or anybody else who is speaking in favor of this bill to correct me on my misimpressions. I'm a member of the Education Committee. I was supportive of LB 1213 in the normal process, and was enthusiastic about providing \$3 million in each year of the biennium for an extension of what I call consolidation incentives. But that was some time ago. We're now at April the 10th at 7:02 in the evening. Vetoes have been coming back from the Governor. This bill is dragging up the rear. And I was under the impression that there was no money for it. Well, that's all right. I think we all learn that sometimes we lose and sometimes we win. Sometimes we get what we want, and sometimes we don't. But now, in the last short period of time, 30-45 minutes, I suddenly hear about...and I'm not trying to be critical of anybody, I'm trying to illustrate a frustration with the process. Now we magically have \$2 million that we can fund what I'm plainly admitting I was in favor of funding earlier in the total mix of things, letting it take its place. But now we've got \$2 million that we can fund this with. And, in fact, the fund is \$2.865 million. And if we aren't using it anyway, why leave \$865,000 in it? And I start looking at \$2.865 million, and that's very nearly what it takes to fund the first year of a bill some of us are struggling as to what to do with. That's very nearly the \$3 million you need for juvenile justice. So one...I'm just muttering out loud so somebody can set me straight. So one says, okay, we've already passed juvenile justice. We've had it go to the Governor. The Governor has vetoed it. It's back. But now we might find a way to fund this at 2 or 2.865 million dollars, and that still gets through, but the other we can't afford. And I understand sequence and timing and prioritization and strategy and accident are all important. But, nevertheless, I'm one legislator sitting here trying to figure out what I'm going to do about this and a lot of other things, because it's a lot of money, and a bill which, in terms of timing, schedule, and everything else, maybe was going to lose, and I'm not glad about that, now becomes a winner, and others that were winners have lost. If that sounds like frustration or confusion, it is. With that, I'd yield any time remaining to Senator Beutler, if he wants it.