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FLOOR DEBATE

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longer window we have, or the wider window, whatever you want to say, the more accurate we can be in our assessment. At least in my approach to the budget, it's a moving target until we get to May, May 25 let's say. And what looks like as untouchable today may well not be untouchable in May. What looks like today that we don't have to raise revenue may be impossible come May when you see what the February forecast is, for example. So the only idea that this really presents is more flexibility. And it's true you can introduce shell bills and I've always been reluctant to introduce bills that you don't mean to do because it unduly rocks an agency or our good employees that we have in this state, whatever approach you might want to take. Or do we put in a bill to cut state aid a huge amount, unnecessarily stir up school districts in a worst possible scenario, realizing those numbers can be done? And maybe things won't change that much in three weeks, and maybe they won't, but at least by the time we go through our analyst process, by the time we go through our hearing process, we're going to hear what agencies are going to be doing. And if some of them come in like I've been reading in the paper, additional cuts is nearly going to destroy some agencies, even though they're fairly large, we're going to be able to say at that time we can't touch "Agency X" if we really want this particular function of state government to exist. And I see many agencies almost on the verge of that type of scenario. And so this simply gives us the flexibility to make those decisions later rather than earlier. It isn't that it can't be done, I acknowledge that, but because so much of this process, this budget process, is education, not only for this body but for all Nebraskans this year, I believe, I think that this is something we ought to consider for at least the next two years in this rule change.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Seeing no further lights, Senator Hudkins, do you wish to close on rules proposal number two? Senator Hudkins is indicating that she does waive closing on this proposal, therefore, members, the question before us is whether we adopt the proposed rules change number two. All in favor signify by voting aye, and those opposed vote nay. A record vote has been requested. Please record, Mr. Clerk.