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LB 759

Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mister...thank you, Senator Chambers, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a clarification for you. If you choose to support Senator Chambers' amendment, which I've decided to support, it will give, instead of take...you will take MIRF, but then we would have the opportunity to restore the money to the cities' aid fund, and the difference will be that if the cities get the aid fund they can use it for a variety of purposes. It's kind of one of those funds that they could use for salary, they could use for purchases of equipment for whatever their city needs are. MIRF is restricted to infrastructure funding, so they may be fixing up a building with it or they may choose to do some type of thing that gets to other issues in the city, but it's a restricted fund. The Appropriations Committee did make a decision. It was the last minute the last day and a pretty good argument was made for us that one city needed...had pledged their MIRF money and need...would have to send a letter to their bonding authority if they didn't...if we didn't reverse that, so that we kept the money in the MIRF fund and not in...and not make this decision as we did to lower the money in the aid fund. It was a decision we made at the last minute. You can debate it now, you can debate it on the next round, you can debate it on the budget bill. But your issue for you, I believe, is do you want to keep it in the restricted fund to help a particular city with an issue, or do you want to put it in the funds that your cities can use for any purpose that they need? And I just wanted to add that to the discussion. This bill has a long way to go so if this bill doesn't...if it doesn't go on here, you'll have the same opportunity to discuss it on the budget bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you have 2 minutes and 20 seconds left.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, Senator Thompson was right on time in terms of the amount of time she took, because I had used at least a half a minute introducing her. This amendment that I'm offering is a good amendment for a number of reasons and I don't have time to go