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LB 407

SPEAKER BROMM: Okay, and that is how much? Do you know off...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: A total of \$188,000 for the first year, \$192,000 for the second year, for a total of \$380,000.

SPEAKER BROMM: Okay. Thank you. Members, I think this amendment and this part of the appropriations bill reflects how far down the Appropriations Committee looked in an effort to try to deal with our budget problem. This is something that probably if we had asked ourselves before the session started are we going to be eliminating this particular commission, I think most of us would have said probably not, that's probably not going to be on the radar screen. It sounds like something that would be very unpopular to do to eliminate this, something that would be difficult to do. So I think it illustrates that everything, even these kinds of things which might in many days in the past been considered somewhat safe programs, are not necessarily going to continue. And I rise reluctantly to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I've had an opportunity to look at and speak with the three commissions that they were proposing to eliminate initially or reduce funding for, and I supported the last amendment with regard to the other two commissions, because I could find some very valid reasons, I think, for continuing those. And I think that they will be monitored closely in the next couple of years to see in fact if they are accomplishing objectives for those that they represent. This one is harder to identify, I guess, the difference in the quality of life that we would have for women here in the state if we had the commission versus if we did not. A couple of weeks ago I was asked to speak to a young...not young, it was various ages, most of them younger than I, a group of strictly businesswomen, all women, quite a cross-section and a fairly large group. And before and after the program, I spoke with several of them individually about this commission and I got the distinct sense that they felt that if we need to make some cuts that we could live without this commission, at least from a standpoint of public funding. It may...it very well may, this kind of activity may continue in a very vital way and a very healthy way through other sources of funding perhaps. That could happen and I hope it does because I think there would be more ownership and more