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LB 440

can do it two years from now. If you choose to wait, we will have to...if you...well, let me stop again. I don't want to get this too confusing. You do have another choice and that is to defeat the whole bill and then MIRF stays. But if you do that, and that's why I put it on red paper this time, it's part of the status. So we'll either have to find \$6 million worth of revenue or find \$6 million worth of other cuts to make. And these are painful cuts. They're painful cuts to the cities. They impact any legislator who has a city in their district, which I think is all of us. Some of us may have more city dwellers than others do, but this was a program put in place many years ago using a cigarette tax earmark and...that flows through the General Fund, and we're at a point where we can't afford to help everybody else when we're cutting our own programs. So philosophically, you have three choices. You can put it all back, but you're going to have to come up with \$6 million somewhere else in the budget. You can sunset it in two years, or you can sunset it, period, which is...would be what I would recommend. Let's just do it and get it over with, because you'll have the same bill back in two years. It's scheduled to sunset in 2009. So with that, I will say what the bill originally did was sunset it, period. We made some changes to try to accommodate the city of Lincoln. This is going to be a little bit complicated to follow, but the first change we made was done by the Appropriations Committee to solve a problem for them. And with that, I will close because that will be Senator Wehrbein's presentation on the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on LB 440. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments, offered by the Appropriations Committee. Senator Wehrbein, as Chairman of that committee, you're recognized to open on AM1414.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The committee decided at this point, where these committee amendments are, is that we reduced the \$3 million in MIRF and...or...now I got to think again. We reduced the state aid to cities and kept the MIRF as it was, which is so we...instead of taking the MIRF cut, we'll have \$3 million. We left it as it was because of a late evening discussion about the need that, in