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LB 407, 540, 574

And I also agree with what's in some of the Governor's plan. And because of those competing interests, I decided that we could take up an idea that combines some of those into one. I've also passed out a sheet that is Erdman AM1763 to LB 407. It tells you how I got there. First of all, what I think that was my feeling, from what I heard from the discussion, both in this body and in my district and throughout the state, was we need priorities in this state. I wholeheartedly agree. Number one in my book was education. Because of that, I looked at the Appropriations Committee's numbers for K-12, and I kept them exactly as they were. That includes the 5 percent increase in special ed spending to access the federal match. That includes the dollars that are allocated to make up the difference between LB 540 and the certified amount. That's the same as the Appropriations Committee. I looked at the community colleges. Realizing that they came under the same guidelines and guidance as LB 540, I kept them at the same level as the final Appropriations Committee amount. I then began to look down through the other parts of education, and I did differ a little bit from the final Appropriations Committee proposal for the university and the state colleges. But I took a number that I believe that they agreed to at one time. And the number that you see on your status sheet, or your handout, is a number that came from the Appropriations Committee preliminary budget. And as I do the math...and I don't know exactly how this is figured, but I view it as a 4.7 percent reduction over Fiscal Year 2002 over the biennium. So, for the most part, under my proposal,...oh, and the other thing is, is I didn't touch the scholarships for low (sic) individual students. I left the \$4 million in General Funds under LB 574 alone. And I don't have an amendment filed at this time to address any of that. So I protected education, because it has a number of impacts in our state, it affects the future of our state, and also affects the services that many of the citizens in our state rely upon. That's where I came up with the numbers for education. I next moved to public safety, law enforcement, Fire Marshal, corrections, other agencies responsible for those duties. I took the number that the Appropriations Committee gave us for the State Patrol. I put that in the plan. I took the number that the Appropriations Committee gave us for the Fire Marshal. I put that in the plan. Now, those weren't the lower numbers;