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LB 407

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...we're probably getting some...I'll stop after the H & HS, since I'm going to run out of time. But I will intend on going through item by item. But the H & HS cut, we did take a 10 percent. That was three hundred and some jobs. So I assume the 5 percent will be about 150 jobs. And so I'm not misquoted, which is famous to be done here, at least taking my quotes and taking them out of context, it isn't necessarily that I feel sorry for state workers when we cut, like I've been accused of doing. It's simply the fact that those workers are working extremely hard. They have a huge load. And as you can imagine, the last two or three years, that workload has increased. And so to take away these jobs, these front-line workers, if you will, is an enormous slap in the face, frankly. They are already working beyond the hours that they're supposed to work. They're already overloaded. The morale is obviously...is very poor. And now we're going to cut them 150 jobs, which is the front-line workers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in general support of AM1763, because I believe that we need to have a discussion here. I'm not willing to just stand up and oppose it because I might have some concerns with some of the numbers. But I guess I would have a question for Senator Engel, if he's available, on some elaboration of what he stated earlier.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Engel, would you respond a question from Senator Smith?

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes, I will.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Engel, certainly we were aware of some cuts proposed and otherwise. Now, when you look at the Legislative Council, basically we're looking at an approximate \$14.4 million budget. Right? That would include the operation of the Legislature? Is that accurate?