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LB 407, 574

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I'm quickly realizing why you've never tried this before, but nonetheless, I think it's been a valuable discussion for me. And I would like to respond to a couple of things that I think Senator Beutler has expressed. As you see the amendment in the area of community...or, postsecondary education, the Coordinating Commission, when you compare those numbers, those are to AM1111 as proposed. It doesn't account for the money that was shifted to LB 574. So when we get to discussing that I made those cuts, those cuts were in the mainline bill, but still show up on the status sheet that you could all find. And it shows that there is an allocation of the additional \$2 million in General Funds for that program under the status sheet, as I understand it. So, from the standpoint of some of the earlier comments, at first blush that might be the reality. But again, I'm happy to clarify. I apologize for that misunderstanding. There's also another couple of areas that I think are important. And I'm going to go through and explain a couple of things. One, on the side of construction, the Governor and the Appropriations Committee were identical in reaffirming construction. And so if you look on the back sheet, page 4 of 4 of the handout that I gave you, all of those are identical to the Appropriations Committee as far as construction, both reaffirming new construction, and total construction. There's no difference there. I do understand from Senator Thompson's comments that there are other areas that received funding for buildings and different programs that are...show up in, say, the Crime Commission or state colleges or other areas that might be affected by this. But again, those are decisions that were made, understanding the reality of where we're at and where I think we could head to protect some of the priorities that we have and addressing some of those things. Let me also go through and talk to you about...if you read in the column on the far right, there are notes. Under Agency 25, Program 30 is the smoking...or, is the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, I believe, is the name of it. Right now it receives \$3 million in General Funds annually. It also has about a \$2.2 million Cash Fund that goes into that program. Under this amendment, we have eliminated the General Fund obligation for that program. Also, when you go down the list on that page 2 of 2, there is another