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LB 407

question?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Yes, Senator.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Pedersen, changing this to the second year of the biennium, is that agreeable with you?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I believe that would help the department and I would agree to that, yes.

SPEAKER BROMM: And your best judgment of what the financial implication is, is what? Could you repeat that for me, please?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Well, for a year's time, it's \$10,119,269, and that's after taking the \$1 million out to enhance the parole administration so we have more parole officers to take care of them people.

SPEAKER BROMM: So that would be the impact in the second year of the biennium, possibly?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: It should be, yes, if I understand the numbers right.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. At this point, I'm going to support Don Pederson's amendment and probably the Dwite Pedersen proposal. I think these times call for significant measures that we would not otherwise do. And I have been, I guess, searching and hoping for some significant way that we could reduce some of the impact of the increasing costs in our correctional area. It seems like there has been no way for us to have much of an impact. The medical costs are out of control. We have no way to put a damper on that, and we're looking at terrific increases in that area. Of course, we have opened the new prison which we voted in. I think some of us had misgivings about it at the time but it is the law and we have it. And we need the space. But it seems to me that if we have these numbers of people who are within the...coming up upon their parole date, that we could accommodate closing a facility like this, that we ought to propose to do it. Now we will have next session. If we find through information that's provided to