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LB 407, 440, 759

intent to give to any jurisdiction a windfall without factoring in what is happening across the totality of our budget, and you all know from studying the Appropriations Committee work and the budget that we have aid to cities. Under aid to local governments, we have aid to cities. And so what this amendment does, and I want to make it clear, this is what I call kind of a notice amendment, at this point it gives us an opportunity to talk about an idea, have a debate and a discussion. Actually, the technical aspects of it need to be put on LB 440, which is much later on the agenda. But nevertheless, back to the subject at hand. The windfall in this case, if motor vehicle repair remains in LB 759, the windfall is, in round numbers, \$14 million. The windfall if motor vehicles repair is not in LB 759 is \$12 million. So take either number and we can, in fact, reduce General Fund appropriations and expenditures by that amount, save that amount, and have reduced our budget by that amount. Now how do we do it? We're not... before you start getting calls from anybody, we're not talking about taking away anything. This is a rebate. The concept is a rebate methodology. The cities would pay back to the state the lesser, the lesser of their aid, the aid to cities they received or the windfall sales tax revenue they received, whichever is less. After they get it, they would rebate it or refund it to the state and, therefore, not have, hold, and spend that money, but receive, accumulate, and refund or rebate that money. And our expenditures would drop by 14 or 12 million dollars, depending on how you finally constitute LB 759, if you constitute it at all. Again, I'm not trying to be presumptive. I'm simply trying to get this concept on the table before the body so that it can be considered as a part of what we are and are not willing to spend. Again, I call this a windfall simply because this was unplanned, unintended revenue that would result from the broadening of the tax base and does demonstrate how a broadening of a tax base has many benefits in terms of what I would respectfully suggest is good tax policy. So the reason for AM1898 is to give you notice of that potentiality, to ask for your participation in a discussion concerning it, and so that we can factor it into our deliberations here. I thank you for your time and attention, and look forward to your discussion. Thank you.