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FLOOR DEBATE

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adjustments can be made if the ratio falls down below .4 in all of those years, up to 2009. What happens after that?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, we feel that we're increasing the base also, so the first year the base increases.

SENATOR BEUTLER: To \$7,000, to \$8,000, to \$9,000.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: So we feel by that time there shouldn't be a problem. You know, we're...but this is just giving the department the opportunity, as dangerously low as the fund is at this point, until we get it built up that there is something in place that if we were to have an emergency today that they could deal with it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Uh-huh.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Right now, you know, if we had a 9-11 attack right now, there's a good chance we wouldn't be able to deal with it. The fund would go broke.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And, Senator, I should have prefaced my remark by saying I can see, just going through things quickly, that you've done a lot of things well, at least in my humble opinion, and I appreciate the making of something...making something clear that was very vague before, and that was that whole "with cause" thing. I like the delineation there much better than I like the old law, which was so uncertain. But if, with respect to that reserve ratio, that you expect the reserve by 2009 to be way higher than this, if that's what you're telling me, what harm does it do to leave that provision in?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, the reality, it probably doesn't do harm. It was just one of the deals that we made with the business community. I mean, they don't like the solvency, the emergency solvency, at all, but it was one of the deals they made and they're willing to make it if we put a deadline on it. You know, right...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, why is the deadline important to them?