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LB 548

Commission which, by the way, there's a meeting tomorrow, and we meet monthly now, to help cover those funds. Department of Justice; \$75,000 a year. And a few other incidental things that we have funded, but primarily those are the big ones that we've done. And again, of that public health, there's a minority health part of that that is also being funded.

SENATOR BOURNE: And within those broad categories then, like, I remember before we did this, we used to do, like, grants, if I remember right. And we kind of as a body thought they weren't effective because it wasn't an ongoing, long-term thing. So like under your category of public health, there's different programs within that that receive money that are ongoing, constant. Or are they grants as well?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, and you're exactly right. We were giving \$5 million a year in grants. We have stopped that now.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: And that's how we were able to increase the funding on a couple of those others.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: But in the original bill, also in LB 692, there was this increase from \$10 million after two years to \$12 million, two years after that to \$14 million. That all went away when we had the budget shortfall, and so this is kind of...this additional \$2 million into biomedical research is kind of going back to the original intent.

SENATOR BOURNE: The original guarantee or, lack of a better word, commitment.

SENATOR JENSEN: That is correct.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Again, I want to commend you and Senator Byars and those involved--I know Dr. Johnson was involved in this to a certain extent--and for protecting this fund and doing the right thing with this money. I just kind of wanted a recap