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LB 425

this amendment of Senator Stuthman, I didn't intend to cause a run on the bank. The idea is that we prepared this budget...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...at a time when we didn't have adequate funds. We do have now the adequate funds to pay this obligation. It is a state obligation and I think that we should pay it in that amount. So with that, I would urge your adoption of Senator Stuthman amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. On with discussion. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Engel. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. My understanding of this amendment, to be corrected, is as followed...follows. We have an allocation system in place for this money that really doesn't make a lot of sense. It's first come, first serve, so you end up fully reimbursing for first quarter prisoners, if you will, and very likely nothing for last quarters. I guess my question to you is, why would you appropriate more money into that kind of a system? The second point is, in my understanding, once a prisoner is convicted and sentenced to a state facility, there is 100 percent reimbursement by the state. They either go to the state facility or the county from that point on is reimbursed for all their expenses. What we're talking about here is, what about the cost of incarcerating that person before we really knew if they were a state prisoner or if they were going to eventually be a state prisoner? That confuses me about a clear state obligation and the failure of the state to live up to its obligations. I don't...I don't see it that way. I think...I think the argument is being made is that, well, it's really not all that much money in the scheme of things. But I think the more important questions are what makes good sense, either in terms of the way the program is structured or in terms of the time period involved of an incarceration and who should really pay for it. It's not clear to me but what it is a county expense to incarcerate prisoners at the time it's not known whether they would be convicted and sentenced to a state