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LB 425, 427

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, in response to Senator Beutler's comments, this is a program that has had more money in it and less money in it, depending on the availability of funds. And if you are doing job training, if you are...if it's an ongoing thing, I can agree with what Senator Beutler is talking about. But what I...but in most cases, this is not an ongoing program. We are talking about specific kinds of grants for specific kinds of training for specific individuals within a company. It is not an ongoing thing that says, we are going to do all the training needs for a company ad infinitum. One of the reasons that I think that this is an important thing for us to look at is, in all the other economic development activity, the benefits accrue to the company. In this, the benefits accrue to the employees. They learn something, a skill, a new technology, that they didn't know before, that they can...they retain that, and can use that to help them get higher salary within that company, or leave that company and utilize the training that they've received. And so it's really about the individuals much more than it is about the company. It's attractive to companies, especially companies that have highly specialized needs. What I've heard from our community colleges is that it's very expensive to design specialized kinds of training for companies. And yet, that might be what they need. What the individual receives is a specialized kind of training that is...that helps them in their ability to do the job that they're currently in, and might help them in doing jobs in the future. And I think that that's a good thing. And I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Pederson, if he would like it.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Senator Brown, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The other part of the proposal that I submitted here is taken up in LB 427. And I'll read to you a bit from that. And it says, money may be transferred to the fund pursuant to subdivision so-and-so, and from the Cash Reserve Fund at the direction of the Legislature. The department shall establish a subaccount for all money transferred from the Cash Fund to the Job Training Fund or...on or after July 1, 2005. Any unexpended, unobligated balances remaining within the subaccount on July 1, 2007 shall be