## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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portion of our concern. We're back again to the fact that why do we have vacancies and why are they seeking requests? It's because federal funds were dropped in these programs. addition to that, several of these programs were not currently staffed at all. Now the Governor has left money in the salary limits to provide for these positions if the department chooses to do that. So let's see what we're really talking about with the department. In the operations of this particular phase of the Department of Education, they have currently \$22,616,000 in the '05-06 budget, \$23,110,000-plus in the '06-07 year. So what are we talking about? In essence, we're talking about 1.4 percent of their operational budget that, for whatever reason, they have chosen not to allocate with their funds that they already have. So the Governor's message is pretty clear. There is money in that department. They have just not allocated it to these particular programs. Because they lost their federal funding, they are coming to us and asking for state funds to replace that. And we did not feel that that was an appropriate use of our money because, as we have said on many, many occasions, we cannot be in the position of replacing every time the federal government drops funding for a program, to say that we're going to pick it up with new General Funds. And so, I ask you to consider the fact that when a department has over \$23 million in their operating budget, if they can't squeeze, if these positions are that important, if they can't squeeze that out of that particular budget. I think that...we're talking about additions to a budget. I know this isn't relatively a large amount out of a \$3 billion budget, but it's...look at the precedent that you start to set when you start to replace the federal funds with General Funds. They have chosen in the department apparently not to allocate their own funds or monies that they have within that department into these particular They say, let's go for some new money for that projects. project. And we chose not to do that generally. So that that's the position that the Appropriations Committee was in. We reviewed this particular veto of the Governor and we saw that, in effect, there is money within that department if they choose to allocate it in that fashion. And for that reason, we chose not to go forward and make new monies available, not to override the Governor's veto in that regard. So for that reason, I would ask you to sustain the Governor's veto in