

with the fact that they did reappropriate some of the dollars that the department had prior to that and all in all the department is treated pretty well. The reason that I feel it's absolutely imperative that they have this amount of dollars for the policy study is specifically because of the issues we are going to be asking the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to undertake in the interim in the next couple of years. Specifically, we're going to be asking a tremendous amount of the department in the area of special education. We are going to ask the department again, if Senator McKenzie's bill passes, and even if it doesn't pass we're going to still be asking the department to do an overview of the entire Rule 51 as it relates to special education. And Senator McKenzie had a copy of that rule and reg manual and it's as big as one of our bill books that we have that are full. That is going to take a tremendous amount of time plus we're going to have...they're going to have to look at all of the state regulations and mandates in special ed, review what the federal government has, review the federal funds, and work and coordinate with the accountability, financial accountability group and the department or the committee of education as well. There are other areas that we're also going to be asking the Department of Education, specifically the Board of Education, to help us on their research and that would be in the area of school finance. And I have talked with the members of the administration, Senator Chambers, and you reminded me of it when you came in that I specifically said we're not having any consultants, are we, and the answer to that is, no. We are doing this ourselves. We have the expertise to do it ourselves. So I wanted to clarify that point. The \$100,000 simply is going to allow the department to do that which we are going to ask them to do. If we choose not to do it, will the department...is it going to hurt the department? No. Their budget actually is in pretty good shape. Are we going to hamper our attempts to try to get the best information we can on the entire overview of special education and the other areas? That answer would be, yes. We would hamper considerably their abilities to do that. In my sense of the matter, if we're going to be looking at the property tax issue on 93CA which is going to have a tremendous effect on education and the department is going to have to have a tremendous amount of work to help us in the educational impact of that alone plus the special education initiatives that we are specifically going to be asking them for a tremendous amount of time, manpower, and research on policy plus the school finance that we're going to be doing and regular on income tax rebates,