

it would be moved then to the Cash Reserve Fund, providing another opportunity to rebuild this fund. As you will notice, this is greater than the 3 percent, it would be that amount that was in excess of 5 percent, which still leaves some protection there or additional amount of funds in the General Fund that would, in part, handle, or is intended to handle, as a matter of fact, slow pay, or to some extent if the economy goes down, that's why we have a reserve, to protect the ability of the state to be able to meet obligations. The amendment that the Clerk will read, if you look on the bill, page...1290 and page 3, line 7, it refers to the General Fund cash balance, and the amendment makes that the General Fund unobligated cash balance. And, as you all recall, at the end of the year various agencies will file encumbrances, which are bills that are...generally they would be purchases that were made in the last month or two prior to the end of the fiscal year, but which had not yet been paid. Those funds are always encumbered, so it would allow...it would allow the transfer to the Cash Reserve the amount in the General Fund in excess of 5 percent and in excess of what unobligated funds, or excuse me, what encumbrances that needed to be covered. I think it's a good policy to be able to do this. You will recall the Cash Reserve Fund, when it comes to legislation, can be used to cover shortfalls, or be utilized to balance our obligations on the revenue side, and it does take two actions. The Legislature has to approve or enact legislation which permits the transfer, then a separate action also in the appropriation bill in order to utilize those funds. But I think it's, particularly in these times, if there is the opportunity to put money in that Cash Reserve Fund, it's going to be increasingly important. And I would hope that first you would adopt the amendment, which is purely technical in nature, and then if the bill could be advanced.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. You've heard the opening on the Warner amendment to LB 1290. For discussion, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Warner, you weren't quite as clear as you were when you were talking to Senator Maurstad earlier today, so I didn't catch a part of it, so I do want to ask you a couple of questions. This is the...the bill actually that we're amending is the one that I think you proposed, either a year ago, or actually been three