

on and saying that if, for some reason, the Maximus monies does not come, well then we'll have to...we have two opportunities. One, we can increase General Fund spending and make up the difference, or, Senator Wehrbein, I assume we could then take...have two votes to get monies out of the Cash Reserve. So what, in essence, this amendment is doing is saying that if you believe the Maximus monies is coming, that's no problem, because it will come, it will go into the General Fund, and the monies we're transferring out will be somewhat equal to the amount, no harm done. If you believe as I that the Maximus monies will not be there, then it's going to make it more difficult for us to fund those programs that we've already said we're going to fund through Maximus programs, through the monies that were being saved or monies we're going to get, now it will make it more difficult for us to fund those particular programs. I think the flexibility of the Legislature is very important. If in fact the Maximus monies come, great, super; it comes, the money transfers next year. If it doesn't come...if it doesn't come then at least we have dollars in the General Fund that we then have the opportunity to say we don't want to fund the programs we obligated the dollars to, or we want to continue, but it's not going to be more difficult for us to do so by having two votes to bring it out of the Cash Reserve, or even at a time of property tax are we going to take...pick up some of the costs of political subdivisions also...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...have this included?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I don't know if your light is on again or...yes, Senator Bernard-Stevens, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Again, what this amendment does...and I don't blame Senator Brown for trying to do it, in fact she may have the votes to do it, but it basically takes monies off the table with the assumption that Maximus monies will be there. And that's fine if you believe the Maximus dollars are going to come. My experience with Maximus on the juvenile justice side has told me that that is not going to necessarily be true. So consequently what we've done in the past, if you go through on the Governor's budget and the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature's