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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 24

implicated in this bill.

SENATOR REDFIELD: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much is implicated in this bill?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thirty-one thousand dollars and it's not saved by the veto.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I have to mention the moratorium bill that involved a study. In the bill was a requirement that there be no death sentences carried out during the study, that also required a study of how the death penalty is administered. Both of those items were contained in the underlying bill. There was an A bill to fund the study. The Governor vetoed both bills. Senator Brashear and I were working that whole issue. We conversed and decided that there were not enough votes to override the underlying bill that dealt with the moratorium. Many voices had spoken in favor of a study who voted against the moratorium aspect, so we asked the Legislature to override the A bill veto and counted on the administration to properly spend that money as the A bill said it should be spent, even though the underlying bill was not present. That's how we wound up with a study. In this case, both bills were not vetoed. The money was allowed to go through. Senator Redfield was touching on something that I think is extremely important. How many of us might bring a bill that carries an A bill, the A bill will send the money to some executive branch agency to carry out the requirements of the bill. If the underlying bill is vetoed, the Governor has succeeded in supplementing the budget of an executive branch department without having it show up in his budget. We should not supplement HHS's budget by this stratagem that the Governor and his people put together. The underlying issue of the work to be done by this task force is extremely important. That alone provides enough juice, in my mind, to justify overriding the veto of LB 24. However, when we factor in the other considerations, the supplementing of HHS's budget in this manner that I think borders on being nefarious because of the bill that is being used for that purpose, I don't see how the Legislature, as an institution, could allow this veto to stand. Senator