

Appropriations Committee will come back with a resolution recommending a total level of appropriation, and then within that, that resolution will indicate the amount of budgets the various commissions and agencies have requested, what the total level recommended by the Governor, the estimated receipts for each of the two following years on a biennial basis, again as provided by the Department of Revenue a recommended level of general fund reserve requirement for rate setting purposes, any expressed obligations of the next two years that we are aware of, plus an indication of what the economic conditions of the state might be. This report then is presented for the Legislature to approve or adopt. I will be offering an amendment that is not in the committee amendments. As the bill is drafted it indicates that that increase in the appropriations after these factors are taken into account recommends a seven percent or more increase, it requires thirty-three votes. That portion is totally being stricken. In lieu of that, it would indicate that if a level of appropriation greater than that suggested amount is recommended it would require thirty-three votes for adoption. The reason for that is that obviously it takes thirty-three votes for the emergency clause on any appropriation bill in any event and we may as well have that indication as early as we can if that is the desire of the body but twenty-five votes can adopt that amount recommended by the Appropriations Committee or a lesser amount if they so chose. And again, this merely gives a guide to the committee expressing the Legislature's intent as a whole as to what we should have. In addition to that, there are some factors spelled out and again these are things we have used the last two or three years. It indicates that one percent of the amount, at least one percent of the amount of anticipated total expenditure is to be reserved for A bills or for floor amendments to the general appropriation bill or also to take into account any revenue reduction bills and again this is to ensure that the Appropriations Committee does not come out with such a high recommended budget that you force a rate change upon the body in order to adopt legislation that is otherwise being considered. Then the bill establishes a priority basis on which the Appropriations Committee should use when considering and developing its recommendations to the body, with that same priority being used for the order of appropriation bills on Final Reading, whether they be the appropriations recommended by the committee or A bills and that priority essentially is one of giving the continuation budget for state appropriations as the first