

this and explain it and correct me or confirm what I am saying, this money would have probably, maybe certainly, been in the budget now but the bill that was introduced there and in the Public Health Committee, the one I introduced for this money, they were either killed or held or no action was taken on them because we all assumed and we all presumed and we all agreed that that funding would be part of 280A. That is how 280 and 280A, the alcohol bill got there, that is how they got their votes. No ifs, ands, or buts, that is the truth. The votes were bought, so to speak, on the basis of we are generating new money through a new tax on alcohol and a portion of that money is going to be used for the alcohol rehabilitation, mental health things. Now I don't claim to understand this whole mess that well other than to say we would have got the money straight up out of the general fund if we hadn't, so to speak, put our trust in 280A. We did. We lost. It got vetoed. We couldn't override the veto. Now if I do it this way, the way I am proposing with this amendment, doggone good chance it will get vetoed, doggone good chance but maybe not, maybe only a portion of it or half of it or none of it. I think, as I said originally on the veto, the Governor was given some bad information. He didn't know the whole background. You know and I know that sitting in this body as you constantly, hourly, every moment are dealing with the issues, you know the background like this arrangement and this understanding and this bill this. I don't think he had any of the background on 280 and 280A and, therefore, I think he was robbed of his chance to make a fair decision on it. So my amendment would simply give him that chance to give a fair decision, and if he vetoes it, I am not going to try to override it. I will be honest with you. That is it. But at least the mental health groups that put together the votes for 280A and 280, the alcohol tax, at least they will have gotten a fair shot out of the Legislature. They came in, they did everything. Senator Wesely held a bill based on that, didn't put it out here for their special money. Appropriations Committee didn't put the money there because it was in 280A. This would be a fair, straight-up, honest approach, and in dealing with our overall cuts, whether we do 30 million or 20 million or 10 million, this would be treated then in the same way. It would put them on a level playing field and that is all I am asking you to do. I am asking you to adopt the amendment and I will turn it in now.