

CLERK: Mr. President, next motion I have is by Senator Lynch. Senator Lynch's amendment is on page 2388.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch. Just a minute. (Gavel.) Please, ladies and gentlemen, please, we can't hear, especially under the north balcony.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, this is a simple amendment that will close down Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and give all the money to Region 6. Simple little amendment. We can talk about it. No, that is silly. That is as silly as the last amendment that was offered. In any case, what this is...it costs no money. All it does is provide, because in the budget document, 722, it provides a procedure for budgets being developed by the ICFMRs and the community programs based on one Touche-Ross report, 1983, and the community programs providing a budget for the Appropriations Committee based on a Touche-Ross report of 1984. Simply put, I must tell you that there is no reason why both the ICFMRs, in other words, the state institution programs and the community based programs can't provide a budget based on both the '83 and the '84 Touche-Ross recommendations. What this simply does then is provide adequate information for the Appropriations Committee and also for the Legislature to understand, to review and to compare. Let me remind you that with the exceptions of the buildings and the facilities involved there is absolutely no difference between the staffing requirements, based on national standards for retardation programs in community programs than there is in ICF programs or state institutions. Think of that. So the only difference, the only difference in the way people are treated is whether or not they are in a great big building or a little building in some community program. That doesn't seem to make much sense. We are simply talking about two, or three, or four important things, people that need help based on their severity and need of treatment. We are talking about staff ratios that make sense, and we are talking about the dollars necessary from not only the state level, the federal level, but also the local level as well. We are going to have, as I understand it, this summer a hearing that will go into some more detail of this. But what concerned me was that in the budget document itself it limited the budgets that would be provided from the state institutions and from the community programs based on different Touche-Ross reports. What is interesting is that