

but we still could use that money for other areas, I suggest at some point on Final Reading, many people who are supportive of the bill may drop off at some point. And I see Liz is talking to her, so maybe you can clarify on that at some point. If there isn't an A bill, assuming that is the route that will happen, then I suspect you're going to have more difficulty on this bill on Final Reading, because there are other areas that technically we might be able to spend the money and, quite honestly, this body will be asked to make a spending decision on a complicated spending matter before we have had a chance to talk about the budget, the Medicaid, the taxation and what have you. I...I would hope that one of the things that you might want to consider is that...that as we go into this discussion that...on...whether it be on Final Reading or some other point, that you keep in mind that there are going to be serious discussions on Medicaid funding and what have you, and there are a lot of good programs that will not be able to be funded. So I...I would encourage that if it's a question of whether we would have an A bill or not, there's a gray area, I would encourage you to have one on there, because at some point that would slow it down, and it gets to Final Reading, and we have those other decisions that will be made, and at that point then we will know what we're going to be able to do or not. This would still be very high on the A bill side, so I assume there would be monies in the A bill section to be able to advance it. I'd be more comfortable with that, doing so. I will go ahead and vote to advance it now. I'm comfortable that the funding mechanism is a good one, it's a very ingenious way of doing it...doing it. I have some current concerns in the future, but those are things we don't put our head in the sand because we're concerned in the future, we go ahead and move forward. It's a good bill to move forward on. I'll support the bill to Final Reading, but I would suggest that it might be helpful, on timing of when the Final Reading vote may take place, it may be helpful to have that behind some of the other issues. And, if not, that's fine, but that's the decision that you would make in response to the bill on when the best time would be to get the most number of votes on this particular issue. And at this particular point, and certainly on the issue, I'm very supportive of it and hope the body moves to advance.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the