

aware that currently a portion of the cigarette tax is dedicated for cancer research and a part of those funds went to Eppley at the time and there's a long story to that that is not particularly pertinent now. But the balance of the funds were put into a grant program which institutions could apply and there was a group, a peer group type of people from outside of the state that reviewed those grants and that's how the money went. It's been probably a fairly satisfactory system. But this would expand that concept to providing additional funds for the two institutions which can qualify for the grants without, in this case, going through the grant process. One of the reasons then, because the grant process would not be used in an institution, as an independent institution which you would not be reviewing their budget, in any event, and appropriately not reviewing their budget, for those reasons there are these additional items spelled out under a contract as the bill originally required for a contract that some of the items that the contract between the Department of Health and the institutions should...should be included and agreed upon. Again, from a personal standpoint, it's one of these issues where I'm not terribly enthused with the...with the earmarking, for obvious reasons. I'm not in a position to oppose or even consider opposing the purpose, but I also feel very strongly that in that process there needs to be an ability for the state to review the effective use of the funds on an ongoing basis and I believe, under the committee amendment, that purpose can be met in a satisfactory manner by all parties. So, with that explanation, Mr President, I move adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, would you like to close, Senator Warner? He waives closing. We'll now vote on the committee amendments to LB 595. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We are now on the bill. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I'm not going to go into, since we just spent an hour and a half on discussing some of the specifics of whether cigarette taxes in general are