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Date: 2/4/2011 10:34:46 AM
Subject: "Other Funds" legislation: House/Senate

See below. Sent to Paul Agnew who has expressed interest in getting Democrat support for both bills.

Senator Rose tells me there are hearings next week on his bills in Senate.

Notice there are small differences between Senator Rose's bills and the companion bills I filed at his request in the House.

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From: Nathan Ballentine
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:53 AM
To: Paul Agnew
Subject: Paul, "Other Funds" legislation

Paul, feel free to share with others who may offer their support as co-sponsors.

Both bills discuss "Other Funds" (roughly \$7Billion of our state budget....for quick summary, "state budget" consists of basically 3 parts: General Funds (where most spend our time/energy/focus), Federal Funds, Other Funds ("fees")

The genesis of this bill is from Senator Mike Rose who asked me to sponsor companion bills to his two in the Senate. He was concerned when DNR requested funds to be used for "boats" when he started thinking "doesn't our state have other dire needs ahead of boats"?

H3579 would move 10% of "Other Funds" (that would mean roughly \$700M) to the General Fund in 5 areas.

The amount apparently was determined since we are facing an \$800M deficit upcoming) which is needed to help our General Fund budget coming up. It would in essence hold those funds "in escrow" to either be spent on those 5 areas OR for us to decide to return to the "other fund" bucket. Those agencies would present their case for why they should receive those funds instead of why those other 5 areas in the bill should receive it.

Those 5 areas in the bill are: 1) Medicaid and other health programs 2) K-12 education 3) the disabled 4) criminal and civil justice system 5) law enforcement and public safety.

Here is link to bill with current co-sponsors listed: http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/3579.htm

The only difference in the House bill I filed and Senator Rose's bill is the changing of "disabled children" to "the disabled"

H3580 simply says that when there is an "across the board cut", that cut applies to "Other Funds" too.

Here is the link to the bill with current co-sponsors listed:
http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/3580.htm

The only difference in the House bill I filed and Senator Rose's bill is I removed FEDERAL funds as I do not think we can technically cut federal funds.

Thanks for your willingness to consider co-sponsoring and for being the lead Democrat to share with your colleagues!

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