

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 2, 1998

LR 45

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Confirmation report is adopted. We next move to General File, 1998 senator priority bills, LR 45, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 45CA, introduced by the Revenue Committee. (Read brief summary of resolution.) Resolution has been discussed on the floor on a couple of occasions, most recently February 27. Mr. President, when the body had adjourned or left the issue that day, Senator Maurstad had pending the next amendment. Senator Maurstad, the divided piece of AM2956, Senator, it starts out strikes original Section 3 and all amendments thereto.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Mr. Speaker, if there's no objection I'll withdraw that amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: There...seeing no objection, it is withdrawn. Next item on the bill.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend. (See FA529 on pages 777-78 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, the amendment I have addresses that section of the bill that's on page 7, which has to do with the consolidation and merger provisions. And I wanted to have, or to use the amendment, first of all, as an opportunity to discuss with Senator Wickersham the scope and intent of the drafters of the legislation with regard to that provision. And beyond clarification, which I think is an important objective in this particular provision, I did want to make sure that we do not handcuff the Legislature in terms of being able to deal with mergers and consolidations of any type, whether they occur now, in the present context, the present political context, or whether they occur 5 or 10 or 15 years into the future. Because, remember, we're changing the constitution, and we want