

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

April 5, 2000

LB 1138

but if I can have a few minutes to explain where we're at, I'll be...thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President and members of the body, if with your indulgence, if we can have just a moment to talk about LB 1138 and the amendment that is pending. Both the bill and the amendment have had an opening before. I would suggest to you that the only difference with the substituted amendment that is now before you, AM3212, is a component that when we last discussed this bill I advised that an amendment would be brought on Select File to delay the changes in the distribution of county funds for one year. That is the only change in AM3212 as opposed to the amendment that was pending when we last discussed this bill. Again, just to refresh your memories, the bill, together with the amendment, AM3212, would revise the way the municipal aid is distributed. The only change that would be made in the municipal aid distribution is the removal of something generally characterized as a lop-off and would allow funds that are distributed per capita above the equalization pool to be distributed free of MIRF restrictions. They would simply be distributed on a per capita basis rather than through the MIRF program, subject to those restrictions. The most significant changes would occur in the county aid distribution pool. There are currently three sources of distribution to counties. Those would be combined into one aid pool. Then that aid pool would be distributed through two equalized formulas, one having to do with roads, the other having to do with the number of poverty persons in a county, and then finally on a per capita basis. The bill, if the amendment is adopted, would not increase aid to either municipalities or counties. It would simply unify current statutes in some respects and then make the modifications I've noted in the distribution of county funds, and also again if you recall last...as we discussed this issue, we sent around a printout that would show you how aid would be distributed to counties if we passed the bill. I'd have to advise you that that printout would have to be updated by a year if this amendment was adopted because it would delay that effect for a year. But it still, it would be an illustration of what you would have seen this year if the amendment had been adopted. You can perhaps use that as guidance for next year, although it