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FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001 LB 335

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The question is the adoption of E & R amendments to LB 335. Those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Wickersham would move to amend, AM1335. (Legislative Journal page 1607.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on AM1335 to LB 335.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, this amendment is one that Senator Kristensen and I discussed on General File. If we're going to have state funding take over or supplant local funding for an ongoing program, it has been our practice, in other areas, to cause the state aid that flows in under those circumstances to be counted as what we characterize as restricted funds, that is funds that would count within the budget limitation, the same as the property taxes or other revenue services that are restricted funds that the state aid is supplanting would do. That's the purpose of the amendment, what it does in practical terms. Because we have...we would have state funding of a local option it doesn't mean then that the local governments can shift the money away from that function and spend it on something else. They have to use our money for the service and not just extra spending on their part. So it fits within the spending limitations. Again, it would make the aid that comes out under the provisions that have to do with essentially the county delivering a specified level of service, meeting rules and regulations, and really modifying their public defender program to meet state requirements be...the aid that would come through that system be restricted funds. It was something, again, that Senator Kristensen and I discussed, agreed should be done on General File. This is the amendment which I sincerely hope implements our agreement.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not at this time.