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FLOOR DEBATE

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need a shock absorber, so to speak, in our revenue losses, we still have the drop in \$1.10 to \$1.00 in the TEEOSA fund aid, so we are plowing additional dollars back in to the school system, in this case. If you also look through our aid programs that I talked about earlier, there are many in there that are a form of property tax relief albeit not as much and not big dollars but through our system and even in some of the A bills that we're talking about there are some additional property tax relief that I think is showing up or actually benefits the counties. I am looking at one really in the county court court reporter salary upgrades. Now this is not county funded, obviously, this is state funded but we have put additional money into county court systems, which indirectly helps counties with their staffing for county courts. Once again, it is not county funds but there are several scattered throughout that that will help some on the property taxes and so this is the committee's recommendation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Open for discussion on AM1567 to the committee amendment to LB 543. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I support this amendment, and, Senator Wehrbein, I supported this amendment when the Legislature first decided to give this money away in a fashion that I thought was not wise. By frittering it away, by giving it to those community colleges, then they supposedly reduced their property taxes, nothing of substance was really done. That was a sizeable enough chunk of money to have funded something that would have been beneficial to the state and we would be able to put our fingers on it, speaking analogously, and show what that money had been spent for. As it is, there is no evidence whatsoever that that money, which was spent in this way in the past, ever was in the possession of the state, ever was expended for a purpose that was worthwhile and that could be justified. So I do appreciate the fact that the committee chose to take the step that it did. I want to give Parson Kruse his credit because I saw in the newspaper...I'd like to ask Parson Kruse a question, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kruse, would you yield to a question, please.