

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

April 24, 2001 LB 305, 543

SENATOR HILGERT: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully call the question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate has ceased. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I believe there is no question about what the issue is here, the \$30 million each year for property tax relief to community colleges is on the line at this point. And I encourage you to make a responsible decision. I understand it's difficult. We're probably not...hardly any, there's probably hardly anyone in here that's not influenced by this in themselves in terms of property tax. On the other hand finding this amount of money in the budget is going to be extremely difficult, and if, in fact, this amendment doesn't pass, I assume that that's where it will be. And I guess we would be seeking advice from everyone as to where we can find that kind of money. Probably anyone could find two, three, four, five million, whether we'd have 25 votes to agree on that I am not even sure, but to find 30 million and agree, let alone 60, it's going to be very, very difficult. So I encourage you to think about that as you cast this vote because there is no other...there is no magic bullet out there to solve this issue any other way without affecting every program that I think any...someone has in here, in addition to the fact of the aid to schools and so forth. Senator Hilgert made a good point, property tax relief is going to continue with going from \$1.10 to \$1.00. Net property taxes still should be going down even in spite of this if the numbers play out. Now that isn't taking into account what may happen in some other things yet, LB 305 or others. At this point there should be a net...still be a net decrease in property taxes because of our huge increase in state aid under the TEEOSA formula. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Wehrbein amendment. All