

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

February 26, 2002 LB 600

looking at in a broader sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, I haven't had an opportunity, and it would take me a long time to understand LB 600 as well as the Revenue Committee does, and Senator Coordsen, and as well as the ag representatives and the rural representatives in this Legislature, but I've listened enough, and I have long believed that the actual agricultural producer certainly compared to those in other agricultural states is somewhat overburdened in this state with respect to the property taxes. And everybody seems to agree with that. I haven't heard it stated that that's not so in this whole debate. And then we kill poor George with kindness, nice try kind of kindness. And I, unsophisticated in this area as I am, maybe it needs more work. But sometimes I think we don't think big enough. Maybe we can do that work this year. And I think Senator Chambers is right, maybe it can be put together with property...property tax relief related to low income. That wouldn't be hard to do. Our homestead exemption provisions can be changed and altered slightly to...to direct attention to that problem. And those two things do go together in a sense of...of...of being legitimate ends, each one of them in themselves. And then we get to the whole problem of how do we finance this? And yet, just yesterday we were sitting with a bill that would finance the cap at 8 percent, that would finance the cap at 11 percent, and would do Senator Chambers...do a good program for Senator Chambers' people at the same time--casinos. But we don't want...we don't want to make these little compromises that we could make to get some important things done. Casino revenues, fifty to a hundred million dollars a year, we could do these things. We could put it together this year if we really wanted to. Just a thought.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Do I see five hands? I do. Question before the body is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote