

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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motion filed by Senator Chambers. First of all, to give Senator Chambers a rest on the microphone because he is getting old and doesn't have the stamina that he used to have, but also because I think that this is a bad bill. I spoke against LB 600, for the reason that I gave you then I give you now. We have no idea of the effect. People can model, but I haven't seen enough as to the effect of this bill on an item-by-item basis. We've got some projections. The 68 or 69 million dollars went down to 28 or 29 million dollars. In a time where we don't have 8 cents of surplus, well, we are going to spend more. This is apparent on the face that we will have to raise the same sum of money before as after to support the schools, and the effect on the counties is not known either. It hasn't been, as far as I know has not been modeled. So at a time where the finances of this state are very, very tenuous, we are going to shoot craps with it. I think we might come up with snake eyes. This is not the time. I realize Senator Vrtiska made the point that it is not going to be in effect for some time. If it's not going to be in effect for some time, we've got time to look at this more carefully because this is serious business. And they can always say, well, we can always change the law. Well, one of the laws that was passed, which was LB 1114 in 1996, has been proven to be a little flawed. We haven't changed that. Another bill, LB 806 in 1997, there is all sorts of flaws in that and we haven't changed that. Inertia, the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest, and a body in motion to remain in motion. This is not the time to be playing games with the tax structure. There is no question in anybody's mind that there is a problem with agricultural land valuation. A vast majority of the calls I get at home are from people, my constituents, the people that sent me down here, and that is what they are concerned about. I am aware that there is a problem. I am aware that this solution does not attack both sides of the equation, and until you start looking at the entire problem, you are going to do a very, very poor job, I was about to say damn poor job, of getting a viable... a viable long-term solution. I voted against the bill. I am going to vote against the A bill. I am going to urge all of you to do exactly the same thing and let's continue to look for a solution and have it worked out before it comes. The fact that LB 600 was in place last year, was worked over by the Revenue Committee, has been worked over by any number of