

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

April 9, 2002      LB 994, 1125

CLERK:      27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK:      Senator Wickersham would move to amend the bill, AM3655. (Legislative Journal pages 1556-1557.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on the amendment to the bill.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, if you want to look, again, in your bill books, you'd find that this was LB 1125. This was a bill heard by the Revenue Committee and advanced. It is rather technical in its nature, but it also has a substantive effect. It came to my...again, it came to my attention, we had the bill, and I thought we needed to address it, if we could, today. It deals with something that is raised in the Governor's veto message. If you looked at the Governor's veto message, he is vetoing some of the money in the County Property Tax Relief Program. That's a program that we developed a number of years ago to assist counties, again, with the LB 1114 limitations. That program always required the annual calculation of an effort rate, so that we could distribute \$5 million in accordance with the formula...or \$5,500,000 in accordance with the formula. So the balance, here, in that instance was the local effort rate. We're simply changing it to conform with what practice has been, in fact, and that is if there weren't sufficient funds then they got prorated out amongst the...amongst the distributees. So we're...we're simply changing the statutes to reflect what current practice has been, because we have failed to fully appropriate \$5,500,000 now for a couple of years. Doesn't look like we're going to get back to that. So I hope you think this change is appropriate so that we can conform the law with what, in fact, I think a very sensible and the only practical result has been.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the Wickersham amendment? Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the