

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 285, 540, 759

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I actually explained the committee amendments earlier. This bill started as a sales tax extension. I put it in on that basis, and we amended it to essentially be the LB 1085 extension. I would ask for the adoption of the committee amendments to this measure.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, item.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have amendments to the committee amendments. The first is by Senator Beutler. Senator, AM1696. (Legislative Journal page 1592.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments to LB 285.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I just passed out a sheet to you that I hope you'll take a look at. My amendment, by the way, strikes the cigarette tax provisions from the bill. And it doesn't strike them because I don't want the cigarette tax. It strikes it because I want to have a discussion as to which portions of this bill we'll continue to have in this bill, and which portions of the bill, some of which are already in Senator Brashear's bill, do we want to have in that bill. We have a whole little strategy thing we need to discuss. And the purpose of this amendment is to have that discussion. But before I get into that, I wanted to ask you to look at this little sheet that says at the top, "A Simple Scenario II: Property Tax Protection Plan". And I call it a property tax protection plan because, if we don't come up with the \$350 million for the Appropriations Committee budget, we will be going back to greater property taxes. I mean, we already are, to a certain extent, as you know. If we proceed with LB 540, we're going from \$1.00 to \$1.04 on the school tax levy. But we will do it big time if we can't make this \$350 million, which I would argue is very reasonable. But I made up this little sheet just to kind of remind myself where the money might be coming from and where money sits right now. And you can see, LB 759, which comes up shortly after this, right now contains about \$150 million of revenues. Now, that includes the sales tax base expansion, and that includes LB 1085