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Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2003

LB 462, 540

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker. Senator Bourne, why did you wake him up? (Laughter) Seriously, this...I introduced a bill on February 26 of this year, LB 462. And I think the committee, that they heard about ten different proposals. All of them were shot on sight except this one. This one was kept on life support for about a month, and then the plug was pulled on it as well. When the opportunity presented itself for me to see a reincarnation, I guess you might call it, I thought this was the best opportunity. The city of Kearney has a very unique problem. They have money they can't spend because they're...with the two lids, we can raise the money very easily, but we can't spend it. The city of Kearney, I believe, what is it, the limit is 45, and it can go as high as 50. The city of Kearney's tax is 12. And yet, with the money we collect, we can't spend it. For three of the last five years, we haven't been able to spend about \$125,000 a year that we're able to raise with the 12, not the 45. So when this opportunity presented, why, I thought I would give it one more shot and ask for your approval. Let's review the history just a little bit. The first formula that was used for this was population. The second one was on taxable valuation. If you think of both of these, what they do is this, is they are too far in retrospect for fast-growing communities. At this time, only the city of Kearney comes under these limits. But there are five other communities in this state that are getting very close, probably will get there in a year or two. The cosponsors of this original bill were the Senators from all five of these other communities. So I guess what it comes down to is this, is that here's an opportunity to correct a problem that wasn't thought of when these lids were put in. And so this seemed like an appropriate time to remedy the situation. And so I'd ask your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. Cities have both sales tax and property tax. But if one goes up, the other one is restricted. And this