

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

March 7, 2006

LB 248, 904

advanced LB 904, which puts \$15 million into cities and counties, the Highway Allocation Fund. There's also another part of this bill. There's another amendment that I have on here that transfers the prorated motor vehicle tax into the Highway Allocation Fund, another \$7 million for cities and counties. They are doing very well here by Senator Baker. I've got two bills, and quite honestly, it's well over \$20 million, all going in the Highway Allocation Fund. So I don't think what we did on General File was out of line. I hope that people will vote red on Senator Bourne's amendment. We'll go on and address the prorated motor vehicle amendment I have next. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, I'm going to speak initially more generally about something that Senator Baker just said, about all the money that we are potentially going to add into the allocation formula, and tell you that the allocation formula is a formula that was put in place about 40 years ago, at a time when our ag economy was a little bit different than it is right now, I think, in terms of where products were sold and what the transportation needs of products are, and where...at a time where the population issues were a little bit different than they are today. And frankly, it's not so much of an issue for the cities, because the city allocation formula is a little bit more straightforward. But the county allocation formula is such that at a certain point in time, I believe that the more urban areas of the state are going to figure out that this formula is so unfair to them, and change it dramatically. And I think that when we add money, as Senator Baker is talking about doing with an amendment that's coming up on this bill and another bill that we're probably going to look at later in the session, it just masks the impact, the effect...the unfair effect that there is. And I don't believe that it's good for either side not to take the opportunity, when we have new money, to change the formula. I think that the interests that would argue to protect the formula the way it is will...may be able to hold off the change for a little while, and instead of doing it when there is new money that could hold everybody pretty much harmless, they're going to keep it the same way as long as they can, and then when it does change, it will change dramatically,