

April 21, 1989

LB 84

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To Select File, senator priority bills, LB 84.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 84 was discussed yesterday. There is an amendment to the bill by Senator Lamb that was adopted. Senator Landis then offered a motion, Mr. President, to suspend the germaneness rule so as to permit consideration of his amendment to the bill. That suspension motion is currently pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Back to the motion to suspend the germaneness rule. I have lights from Senator Schmit, McFarland and Landis. Senator Schmit, would you care to speak to the suspension of the rule? Thank you. Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker, like to speak on this just very briefly. Yesterday when we adjourned we were talking about a suspension of the rules to allow Senator Landis to have discussed and debated and voted upon an amendment that would require that sales tax be increased in order to somehow, or in part, compensate for the \$94 million of tax, property tax relief that would be provided in LB 84. I will just briefly reiterate why I think in fairness and courtesy we should allow Senator Landis the opportunity to debate this issue. On General File LB 84 was amended to include the homestead provision and along with the 10 percent tax rebate that was Senator Lamb's bill. At that time I'm sure there could have been a germaneness question raised and I suspect the way the germaneness issue is now being interpreted, persons could have stalled the implementation of that amendment. That was not done. I think in this particular case Senator Landis now is asking to add and discuss an amendment that relates to tax issues, albeit the sales tax issue as contrasted with the property tax issue. I think as a matter of decency and as a matter of collegiality to our fellow senator that we should at least allow the suspension of the rules to have Senator Landis and the other members of this body an opportunity to discuss this issue. Even if you don't support the concept, you can always vote against the concept and as a matter of fact, I'm not sure where I'm going to come out on this issue. But if you do not support the amendment you can vote against the amendment itself but at least have the courtesy and decency to allow Senator Landis to suspend the rules in order to consider this particular amendment. Thank you.