

May 17, 1989

LB 84, 611

not correct those. It is not some magic elixir that is a cure-all for that problem, but it is a two aspirin solution for a two aspirin headache. It does correct that situation this year. It does not correct it in the long run, but I think that it sends the message and it sends the dollars that back that message up that we need to address this issue of property tax and our over-reliance on it. That's my reason for supporting the bill. There have been a number of bills that have been in. This has emerged as the one that the body has adopted. It's not Senator Lamb's, it's not Senator Moore's, it's not Senator Chizek's, and it clearly is not my idea, but it is the body's and it is the Legislature's proposal and one that the Governor has embraced that we can jointly give to the people of the state that lets them see that we are working on the problem of over-reliance on property taxes for funding of local governments. And it's going to take a lot more than LB 611 to cure that problem. It's going to take a lot of hard work on the part of this body, the Executive Branch, the local branches of government to correct that situation in the long run. This does not solve the problem. This helps and we must do this and I think we need to do it now. We need to make this our first and our foremost priority. We need to suspend the rules when that motion comes up, and we need to address the situation tonight. We need to take it off the table. We need to tell the people of the state that this is our offering, if you will, to them that we are going to address that problem. It's going to be a long, difficult procedure. It won't happen overnight, but it is the first step to that end. If we choose to adopt Senator Warner's amendment, we, I think, send a very mixed message that we're looking at it again but we're only looking at it halfheartedly.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: I appreciate the choice that he offers to us, but I would urge the body to reject that and to send a clear message to the people through LB 84 as it sits on Final Reading that we have just begun to address that issue of the over-reliance on property taxes and that we are taking that first step through the passage of LB 84, which I hope takes place tonight. I would urge you to reject Senator Warner's amendment to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Like to call the question.