

to be worked on considerably in Select File to get things straightened out. Because I...quite frankly, I'm not sure I agree with Senator Beutler's amendment, but I...I decided I'd go with it now to keep the discussion going. Because again, the more you give on the state level, the less they give on the local property tax level. And again, we can be very political and say, we didn't raise your taxes, your county commissioner or your NRD board did it, but I'd prefer to be straightforward with it. I'd prefer to give more money on the state level and help them out just a little on the local property tax level. Because I really don't think they're squandering that much money out there. I don't think that they're wasting it on too many programs. Look at your counties, look at your NRDs. I think they do a pretty good job of local control...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...and making their budgets stretch. So I'd prefer to give more on the state level and be honest about it...who's...who's doing the taxing, because it's...we don't have a choice. Again, it's a federal mandate. I'd urge you to support the bill. Let's move it on and look at the potential in innovative funding mechanism...mechanisms that we could put in to fund this system. But at least let's keep the discussion going and get the account open as Senator Johnson mentioned, and truly prioritize water quality with more than just lip service.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, as I mentioned initially, there was concern over the cash fund and I'm still wondering about, but nevertheless, there's another problem on the actual operations. And if you look at the actual fiscal note of LB 338, even before you start distributing funds, there are a variety of things required of the department that are going to cost money. And I guess my question to Senator Johnson is that...do you...do you agree that, even if you don't create the cash fund the way the bill is written, there will...will be some expense to the department, and you would be willing to introduce an A bill that would accurately reflect that General Fund cost. Is that right, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Moore, actually, as we envisioned the program being started, we...obviously the cash fund would...would pay for the expenses as revenue is collected.