

May 9, 1995

LB 613

it to something else. I heard them say, cut spending. We have to slow it down and I agree with Senator Lynch, that means us too, that means our departments and that means the state as well. I don't think LB 613 with the committee amendments is an unreasonable request. I remind you again this is not asking them to cut current budgets, it's asking political subdivisions to spend 1 percent less. To me there is a big difference, to spend 1 percent less. And unfortunately those are the times that we are in right now where people are saying we have to find some solutions to the number of political subdivisions, we have to find a way to do things more efficiently, we have to try to retain quality and, of course, people don't want to lose it. If it's the county, they don't want to deal with it. If it's a school, they don't want to deal with it, but the public is saying over and over again, it's time to deal with it. Again, I stand in opposition to the Vrtiska amendment. This is about spending only 4 percent instead of 5 percent. It is not a 4 percent cut in your budget. It is a 1 percent cut in your spending. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Witek on the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I rise also in opposition to the Vrtiska amendment and Senator McKenzie said it much better than I could, so all I'll say is ditto, and I hope you will not support the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'm a little...I just want a little clarification on the amendment. Senator Vrtiska, the way we have the bill now the...it was...we had a range from 4 to 6.5 and of course the committee amendments lowered that down. Your amendment does what now, and I know it sunsets after a year, sunsets the whole thing after a year, but where are the lids percentage-wise under your amendment?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Bernard-Stevens, basically all my amendment does is extend the present lid that we have in place right now one more year.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. So it keeps it at 4, keeps the range between 4 and 6.5?