

May 9, 1995

LB 613
LR 93

down on any side, I guess, when one can justify. And unlike everybody else, I'm not particularly wild about imposing uniform restrictions across the state knowing every situation is different. But nevertheless, the times that we are in are here and I'm inclined to be supportive in what I view as a period of transition over the next three, four years of a more narrow limitation. I know there was an interest however, when I was looking at the blue book that was passed out by the Appropriations Committee where it indicates the growth in receipts from '92 to projected receipts, or not, excuse me, receipts, expenditures and I see from '92 projected through '97 operations is projected at 3.4 percent increase average per year. That certainly is well below the other state aid side. However, it's higher, that's 5.2 but the average is 4.4 so on the whole the state budget, at least if we end up with a budget as recommended by the Appropriations Committee, it's not going to be all that far off from the same kind of general limitations that are spoken to in LB 613. But I would hope at this point at least that the body would be supportive of the concept in LB 613 as introduced plus the committee amendment and the Maurstad amendment which has been adopted, it gives a little flexibility at least in terms of not encouraging local governments to increase their budgets merely to maintain their spending authority. With the unused spending authority authorization it seems like that should discourage the misuse.

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

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, again I rise in support of the Vrtiska amendment and just to emphasize a couple points very quickly. This will be the last time I suspect I'll speak on this particular amendment and that is I think Senator Warner pointed out why the Vrtiska amendment, in fact, makes sense. If, in fact, you look at the average and the average growth is about 4.5 percent and our range is 4 to 6.5, by us making a change it's not going to make that much difference except for those that are on the upper end for the most part. What I...particularly the points I'd like to make is that if we're trying to extend the lids on the political subdivisions because we want to make some tough policy decisions on property taxes on 93CA, the Vrtiska amendment will do that. It will keep the lids on, but it will also add a sense of stability in a very unstable area and that is in school finance. Not only have the school districts been hit finally with