

Senator Will to LB 590; Senator Wickersham to LB 108. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 1177-79 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. We spent a lot of time on this bill because it is an important bill and I think everybody here recognized that. I think it's a...it's a bill that is somewhat in line with the 35 states in the United States who have, in fact, seen fit to follow this same type of issue in order to assist those who have been faced with extremely extraordinary expenses. I don't like to use extraordinary, because that's not a very good term, but expenses in and above what their ability to pay. I appreciate Senator Chambers willingness to define these words that he's talked about to the narrowness that will not allow somebody to take advantage of the meaning of the bill. And anything that can be done, I will certainly be happy to work with. At this time I'd also like to thank Senator Wehrbein and Senator Hillman, Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler, those who have...all of those who have been assisting in trying to get this bill in the shape that it needs to be in order to get it passed. I do think it's important to get this bill moved ahead so that we can, in fact, as a...as a group of people in this Legislature who have some compassion and have some willingness to help those who are less fortunate than we are, and it was only my intent to bring this bill to provide that kind of assistance in the cases where expenses are far and away above what a county, city, or village are able to take care of on their own with the level of tax rate that they're obligated to stay within, and to continue to provide the services to the county, or the village, or the city that are necessary under our constitution. So I guess I'm only asking that you...if you feel as I do, as strongly as I do that this is an important bill, that you will assist me in providing advancement of this bill to Final Reading. And for all your help and guidance I certainly thank each of you. And, with that, I'll close and hope you advance the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. The question before the body now is the adoption of the Vrtiska amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.