

March 21, 1996

LB 299, 1114, 1141, 1176
LR 292

and he has explained that very well, because what the committee amendment strikes is that when the tax is collected, as the constitution now allows, that the reimbursement must go back into schools, villages, cities and counties. Okay? That will not change. The money still goes back to those areas with the exception, certainly, of townships which will be eliminated in the other bills coming up. So you have counties, cities, villages and school districts that will continue receiving the dollars as of the committee amendment. What the committee amendment will strike is the portion that says that the subdivisions will get an amount appropriate to the weight that they have of their total spending and asking on the overall levy. So an example would be if a school district is 75 percent of the levy...of the dollars that that area would receive, they get 75 percent of those funds. If a school district is 58 percent of the overall levy, they get that percentage which is what their burden is on the overall tax. That's the burden they're...that's what they're reimbursed at that same percentage. By deleting the language, what you would in essence be saying is that knowing that dollar amount is collected, we still believe it should go back to those that have the hardest impact on...or the heaviest impact on the mill levy. All right. Now let me see if I can try to tie into...and we'll get...it'll become more clear as we get to LB 1114 and LB 299. And again, I will be honest, I have been so...I have struggled so hard with this issue, I...not this amendment, but the whole issue...I still don't know where I'm going to come down in the overall scheme of things, but it's beginning to focus just a little bit...a little bit better for me. How it fits into the whole scheme of things, if you take LB 1141 and you take LB 299 as they now are...I mean, that's the only way we can talk...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...about them at this point, you need to understand that what the committee amendment will do in this case is say to the political subdivisions, you don't know how much money you're going to get from this tax, but you will get some, and we may give you more or we may give you less. We'll decide that. An example of that is in LB 1176 which we will not discuss this year. A part of LB 1176 also was, which was...which was related to the deletion of the words, is that we may actually do some things on a different type of tax in order to increase equalization funds. And when my time comes up