

March 25, 1996

LB 299, 1114
LR 206

going to be most impacted by this bill. I don't believe that cities and counties are going to be nearly as heavily impacted, except in some instances, and maybe Senator Vrtiska, for instance, has some of those cities and counties that would be heavily impacted. And then I wonder if the amendments that we've made today bring it to the point where there really isn't too much pain left in it. I mean these are the answers to the questions I just don't know. I can't...I can't evaluate right off of the top of my head. If we have amended it that much then is Senator Chambers right? Is it smoke and mirrors? Is it worth doing? Are we causing enough crisis that we will get some change in our ..the structure of our government and in the way we deliver services? I don't know. I'm hoping that I get some divine guidance or something in the next few days because I think this is one of the most difficult issues that I've had to vote on because it is complex and because those of us who aren't on the Revenue Committee often have a time unraveling some of those complexities so that we understand the whole picture. So, for what it's worth, that's my explanation to my constituents, who may or may not be listening. At the end, of course, we all have to make a decision, but I'm not ready yet to make that decision.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Schimek made her comment. I think I feel a need to as well. I have not talked about this bill outside of the amendment I had on school reorganization. My feeling is that this Legislature has worked hard over the interim in addressing, through the LR 206 study, the question of property taxes. The Revenue Committee has worked hard to come forward with a package of legislation and I think the people are expecting us to take action so a sense of institutional responsibility leads me to feel that I need to support the advancement of this bill, as I did with 1114. But I also want to stand and tell you that I personally feel that lids are a mistake; that they eventually lead to a deterioration of services that are needed by our citizens and that I have longstanding opposition to lids, particularly constitutional lids, over the course of the years