

April 2, 1996

LB 1114, 1177

because they have very large expenditures for public safety, police, and I understand their problem. They have no other way to cover their police costs above and beyond property tax revenues and maybe some of the other revenue sources. I'm not sure that they can do it because of their specialized needs, but I know that, unless we set a broad scale policy that is in 1114 and try to make policy only for the two communities or maybe the three communities in my district that I think might have some trouble meeting the constraints of 1114, that we will do nothing and nothing is not the answer in today's environment. I oppose Senator Maurstad's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body now then is, shall debate cease on the pending Maurstad amendment? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is ceased. Senator Maurstad, you may close on your pending amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: (Microphone not activated)..allude to earlier was brought out because I was...and maybe I misinterpreted a comment, but I felt that there was some indication that if we went to what I'm proposing it would be different than what we have now, when in effect what we're going to is different and certainly is not the status quo. I was just trying to answer the argument that we shouldn't do what I'm proposing because it was in some way or another something unusual, and I might have misinterpreted that. I don't disagree with Senator Wickersham's points. As usual, he makes excellent arguments. The issue, though, is some can access the tools that the Legislature has provided them and some can't because of their size. And I think that the charts, in effect, bear that out in why you have a lot fewer first class cities that are affected, and primary and metropolitan of course are not, in comparison to the smaller ones. I want to focus everybody back once again to the...what I think is something that we're trying to address and that is 80 percent of the property tax relief that's going into the big barrel from municipalities, 80 percent of that is coming from second class cities and villages and I don't believe that 1177 will completely fulfill that difference. I believe that the future, we can look at the past and get an indication of what