

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 1999 LB 149

levy limits down and said, we're going to squeeze people at the local level and you're not going to get to raise as much property tax. And what we really wanted to do was go down to a dollar, but to do that we're going to phase in. We're going to give you a couple years to get used to that idea, we're going to go to a dollar ten and then ultimately down to a dollar. That was property tax relief. Then became, and Senator Bohlke, she'll tell you these stories, that became a huge source of contention between the Revenue Committee and the Education Committee. The Education Committee brought in 806 and said, here's the gap of money we're going to lose. This is what schools are going to have to eat with this property tax relief, and we need to make a policy choice are we going to do it. (LB) 806 was about filling the gap that schools had. (LB) 806 was not about property tax relief. Property tax relief was 1114. (LB) 806 was about aid, giving money to schools to fill the gap. So when I hear people talk about 806 was a property tax relief and we didn't get any property tax relief from it, that was not its purpose.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Chair recognizes Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I...I support changing the date of certification. I think that all of us recognize that we were far too aggressive in looking at the December certification and we didn't have the adequate data to be able to do it, which, you know, calls into question why we arrived at that decision when we made it, but...but I agree that we need to fix it. I intend to deliberate a great deal more later about the aspect of whether we lock in an obligation and abdicate our responsibility, in terms of state aid, of making it an appropriation. But that I will argue about later. For me, the question is whether somebody can convince me that what we are doing with the amount that we call the 22 million is more than just being reactive to something that happened as a result of us...of our policies and then of us overfunding the state aid in one year. And I...one of the things that I need to know is whether, since we're...since we have more solid data in terms of the needs, whether we can say right now absolutely that it's 22 million. And I'd like to ask Senator Bohlke if she can say absolutely, in light of knowing, having the data right now, that the impact of the