

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

February 3, 1999 LB 149

SENATOR BOHLKE: Right, I need to clear up that the automobile tax will not be in the "respin" side but in setting the certification...recertification in the future, so.... Remember, we're doing two things with state aid when we certify it. We're always looking to the future and we're always looking over our shoulders. Those are two separate things that we have to keep in mind. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I wanted to state at the outset that I support this bill, but I do want to try to give a perspective as related to the budget issue and it's sometimes going to be a little bit difficult to do when we do things this early. One of the reasons that we wait until later in the spring, and in this case May, to do budget is so we have a better understanding of where we're at in the budget process. Right now, we're about...we're probably...we're well over halfway through our budget. We're probably maybe one-third on, just a big guess, one-third through the process in terms of the dollars that we're spending. We're now into the bigger agencies where the dollars...where we're examining the dollars going to agencies. The reason I say that is that we're still in an estimating stage and we won't know for about three weeks, when you will have more information, exactly where the budget status will be. So what I'm saying is all of these are still going to be estimates and it's going to be difficult to really know how this is to fall into place until we get later on in the summer...spring. On the other hand, we have to make some decisions and I would urge that you move this bill along, even if you don't understand it, till at least we know where we are...closer to when we need to make a decision, which I'm assuming is around March 1st. Part of the difficulty is, so you're clear, the way the Governor's done the budget, allowing 25 million this next year to go to property tax relief, this is about the 22 million, we are talking about the same amount and the same dollars. We have in the status, it's true it's not appropriated, but it is in the status at the \$22 million level. The Governor did not recognize the \$22 million, but he does have 25 million in for property tax relief, which carries over into