

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

February 18, 1999 LB 86

their budget and the amount of property tax that the community college is going to be asking for. Now, normally, you would think that that would be a significant part of the process, if somebody is going to levy a property tax, they ought to have to go to the county board, and they ought to explain why they want to levy a property tax. But in this instance the county board can't do anything about it because the amount that the community college is going to ask for is set by a separate board. So when they adopt their budget and it calls for "X" number of dollars of property tax, if that's within the statutory limitations, that's the amount that's going to be levied, and the county board really can't do anything to affect or influence the community college budget. Now, the current requirement that the community colleges appear, and it's an absolute requirement that they appear and explain their budget, is therefore kind of misplaced. So what we're substituting in LB 86 is a provision that says, if the county board really wants to know about the community college board's budget, that they can request the community college to come in and explain their budget and use their time in that way. It no longer would be a mandatory appearance, it would be an appearance by request. And if the request is made then it's mandatory. Now, the provisions in the bill that deal with electronic transfers may be of some interest to you. We're all becoming more and more familiar with electronic transfers as a way of doing business. A lot of you pay your phone bills by electronic transfers, pay your insurance with electronic transfers, pay your...any number of bills with electronic transfers. The bill allows counties to do that within some limitations. And in fact it came to my attention, a couple of years ago, that counties were in fact making electronic transfers. They were making electronic transfers to pay into the state Retirement System. There wasn't any statutory authorization for making those electronic transfers. All of the county laws required that transfers only be made by a warrant, and that's a piece of paper. So what the bill does is provide for electronic transfers, but an accounting system, if you will, an accountability system that becomes equivalent to the paper trail that you'd have with an actual warrant, so that somebody can come in and they can say, what did you spend money on? Why did you spend money? How much was transferred, et cetera? And that is all taken care of in the bill. So it just makes possible for the counties to do, in electronic