

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

February 22, 1999 LB 54

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: It was just brought to me to carry on the floor.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I understand, and I didn't...

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: And I don't have it, and I don't have a fiscal note here.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I didn't intend to put you on the spot, 'cause I know you're carrying...

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: No problem.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...the bill. But I'm just going to call attention of the body, this is property tax relief, in essence. This case it's \$65,000, the state is picking up the cost for interpreters, both for the hard of hearing and for the English language situation. I understand the need for the bill. I'm really not questioning that. More clearly, I want to call the attention of the body that it's a transfer of county funding across the state to state General Funds. Once again, it's...it's a gradual creeping up of cost to the state. There would be no doubt in my mind that those costs will gradually go up over time. And I'm not particularly critical of that, but I do want you to be aware of another good program that costs us increased funding from General Funds.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Pederson.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I'll mention just a couple things from my own knowledge with this...with this bill. In Douglas County, there was some problems here, a few months ago, when they were doing their budget, last summer, about furnishing interpreters for the probation office, because they didn't see that a statute required them to have to pay for it. And they tried to take away the funding, and they have put some temporary funding in place to handle that now, especially for their doing of the presentence investigations. That is the reason for part of this