

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

March 17, 1999 LB 149

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Kristensen, on the motion to suspend the rules.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I want to echo a couple of words I think Senator Wickersham was saying this morning, and I think the bottom line that I get from his discussion is that to be fair isn't always to be popular, and the tax policy isn't always...amount to what everybody wants individually, it's what all of us collectively desire, and that's some fairness in the policy and fairness in the approach to that. And I would echo that. The purpose that we're here this morning for is obviously to suspend the rules and whether that's a good policy or not. And we have taken the opportunity to obviously have those discussions that occur from time to time on the floor of the Legislature about how we feel in general, because there isn't always that opportunity for a discussion of the whole. But to focus on what we need to do this morning is, should we suspend those rules to allow for 149? There are some good things in 149, there are things that need to pass and things that should pass. And I believe that by moving the bill along in the manner which we have done thus far, we do owe it to the state and those school districts to suspend the rules and to vote on the bill today. And if there are other considerations that have to be made, they will be made in a prompt fashion, or at least so I hope. But I do want to take this opportunity to reflect on what you're doing, because every vote that you make, in terms of state aid, is a big vote. It will be viewed, in the course of what happens in five years and what happens in ten years, because there are few larger issues than state aid policy. The gyrations will still continue, they will take different forms. Why? It's because you are trying to address so many people's different needs. Every school district is different, there are so many competing interests of how best to do it. If I have to make some predictions, soon we'll begin not to talk about state aid. The term state aid will soon fade from our discussion, because as you begin to put more money into the system, and we do put more money into the system every time we make a major change in the distribution formulas, or how we do it, the way to effectuate that change is to add more money. We did that in 1989 before we had an equalization type of formula. Governor Orr vetoed that. I know, I ran the amendment. (LB) 1059 came along, how did we affectuate that?