

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

March 22, 1999

LB 142

through the state formula for schools, and we also ran the money through the Highway Allocation Fund, if I remember correctly. That's not the...that's not what we're doing here. This is a...when I hear you say, Senator Wickersham, we're going to do it in an easier manner, I assume the easier manner is we're just going to divide the three percentages up and say let the chips fall where they...where they will. For some communities, that's going to be if they have a low, for example, if you have a city with a low levy right now for property tax, when they get this money they may actually get some additional monies that normally they would not under an equalization formula, depending on what their...how their city would come out on their citywide highway allocation formula. For some school districts, the same thing will be true. The issue that I have, and Senator Wickersham brought it up, is community colleges. Four point two million dollars, that's what they're losing and will lose as a result of the constitutional amendment and the implementing language. Senator Wickersham's right, 142, you can't undo what we've done in the constitution, but there's a second step to this. The second step is you just can't walk off on the community colleges and say, I'm sorry, there's \$4.2 million. What is that \$4.2 million? That's roughly the amount of money that's been generated by their seven-cent maximum levy. They've got some spending limitations as well in there. They're willing and, in fact, have been to the Appropriations Committee, and I see Senator Wehrbein here, have told them that, look, there's also one cent that we have for capital, and that amounts to roughly \$650,000 that they're willing to lose. But somewhere they've got to make up the operating end of 4.2. Now we're not talking about just additional monies. We're talking about this is their base budgets from the state, the amount of money that they're getting to operate, and somehow we have to come up with that money or you're going to have some real problems in the community college system. How is that done? There is an amendment that I have on the A bill which basically takes General Fund money, just makes a General Fund appropriation and increases the money and replaces it that way. It wasn't an amendment to this bill 'cause I didn't think I could do that. But...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.