

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

March 22, 1999 LB 142

and that is the nature of this bill, is the allocation of tax revenue. Senator Beutler's amendment deals with the allocation of state aid as an offset. I disagree with Senator Tyson. It isn't a matter of necessary right or wrong. It is a problem we have to address. We have undercut the NRDs by this constitutional amendment and by this bill. We have to face reality. We have to make sure that their programs are adequately funded. I agree with Senator Beutler that this is the fairest and most equitable way to do it. His proposed amendment is certainly germane. I would urge the members of this body to vote to overrule the Chair on its ruling.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support the Chair, recognizing, I think probably as well as anyone, the impact on the natural resource districts and, as a member of the profession of production agriculture, understanding the value to Nebraska for many reasons of natural resources districts. This morning it says here we're on the fiftieth legislative day. In, what, ten days the proposed budget, biennial budget, is to be presented to the Legislature. The appropriate place for an amendment that Senator Beutler is presenting to us this morning is, in fact, as an amendment to the mainline appropriations bill of the Nebraska Legislature. It's not quite as simple, and this is why I'm happy that the Chair ruled in the way that he did, it's not quite as simple as what the Beutler amendment would indicate to redistribute funds that are currently in a state aid formula or several state aid formulas. I spoke with Senator Wehrbein a few moments ago and we were looking at...I think it's in the Governor's budget here on...in the 270s or something like that, his proposal, the MIRF funds. The MIRF funds are distributed on a per capita budget...per capita basis and that's okay, but to take the MIRF funds and use those to fund NRDs or community colleges, as was Senator Wehrbein's interest, creates another set of problems because the distribution of the motor vehicle tax does not fall on communities in the same way that other distribution formulas do. So this amendment that has been ruled not germane presents to us a very complex rewrite of state aid distribution formulas in order to achieve the results that Senator Beutler would hope to achieve this morning. I think the better course of events is