

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

April 26, 1999 LB 271

watching this process, I think they forfeit their rights to complain next year. But this gives them a full year and into next year's session to, one, inform people but, two, to massage some of the impact of how this process is done. I'll have some other questions for Senator Wickersham just on procedure, not being opposed to what he's doing but just to map out some of the procedural issues. But I certainly think at this point in time, it's good to delay the operation of LB 271 until the year 2001 property taxes hit. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Raikes, on the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Madam President, members of the Legislature, given the way I conduct my life, for me to argue against procrastination is probably extreme hypocrisy, but that's what I'm going to do. I would...I would remind you that the way the bill is right now, the effective date would result in property tax payments by government subdivisions in April or May of the year 2001. That's two years from now. The Kristensen amendment would make that three years away. Now there's been some discussion that would indicate that this has sort of been sprung up on everybody, that nobody could see this coming. Well, I don't think there's any evidence to support that. This has been in the works for at least three or four years and, of course, with the constitutional amendment and so on, I think everyone has certainly had the opportunity to become fully aware of what the public policy implications were and what those public policy implications might do to them personally. The argument has been made that we want to have the slightest possible impact. Well, let me remind you that the constituents of this bill and the constituents that we need to represent are private citizens of the state who have spoken in an election. This is a policy initiative that they have endorsed. We are here to carry out their interests. The airport authorities have interests which we need to consider in forming policy, but certainly we have to bear in mind most strongly those of every citizen and taxpayer. Senator Smith brought up several specific examples of things that need to be dealt with or issues that may arise, and certainly he has a good point. On the other hand, the thought that you are going to draft a statute that would include reference to every one of those specific items, I think is