

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

May 4, 1999

LB 880

levies, as we did, or at least uniform levies in some instances. I don't know that we want to encourage a policy that simply says that we will distribute more dollars to those who have the highest taxes without any regard to why they have the highest taxes. There will be those of you who say, well, if the current aid formula isn't okay, because we don't want to reward those who have the highest taxes, why didn't the Revenue Committee recommend something else? Well, if we're given about a year, I think we will. We can bring that to you next year, but when it became clear to us what the impacts were this year, we didn't have any means to develop a new formula and to properly have that heard and understood well enough to bring it to the floor of the Legislature, but we can do that by next year. We can have an interim study this year. We can address that issue. We can take care of it. We can bring back something that is more appropriate for the NRD fund distribution, whatever that turns out to be. But, in the meantime, even by adopting this amendment, we would not, in any significant way, impinge NRDs because the information we have is that it would impinge on only one NRD. The rest of them can easily make up the resources, if they choose to do so, out of a general property tax levy. But if you take the money away from the counties, you're likely to get the same results.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. For discussion on Amendment 1609 to LB 880, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, this is an issue that everybody has struggled with and, Mr. Chairman, Senator Wehrbein, I don't...did you want to speak first to this? I'd be glad to switch times with you. I didn't mean to press my button.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, no, that's fine.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The Appropriations Committee did what we thought the Revenue Committee wanted us to do and that was to deal with the serious deficit that had been left for the NRDs with the functioning of the motor vehicle tax bill that we passed this year. Let's go back to the beginning. The NRDs had a certain amount of money that was coming into them. Then we passed the motor vehicle tax bill, or we will, and that money