

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1107

that...that consolidation and unification is not maybe going fast enough. When I first moved here 29 years ago, we had thousands of school districts, and we have now changed it so that we have systems and we have 163 of those. I think that in 29 years is a great change when change is hard. So I'm not sure how I'm going to vote on this amendment. I'm going to listen to Senator Beutler some more. I don't know that I want to go through the reconfiguration of how the...each system or district is funded. It seems like we are constantly tweaking this system. At all points of every Legislature that I have been in in the last four years, we have done something to change the formula. Somebody somewhere has gotten hurt with state aid, the amount that is being paid. This bill, so I am told, will stabilize that so that we don't have to constantly change how we provide state aid to the different systems. I passed out a survey this year and,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SUTTLE: ...again, and the only thing that is consistent throughout this is: lower my property taxes. It's very difficult for us as legislators, since we don't collect it and we don't issue what property taxes are going to be. We have tried every way and have meddled with property taxes ad infinitum in the last five years, and I don't know that that is good policy for us. We need to look at the fairest way of taxing our citizens so that they get the biggest bang for the buck, and so I am still undecided on what would be the best course. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Beutler, your light is next and it's the last light. Do you wish to use it as your general discussion or as a closing?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, I'll go ahead and close, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, at one point in time, the federal government ran into this kind of problem. Do you remember they had a large excessive number of military bases, and they could never deal with the problem of which ones to close because everybody...nobody wanted to close theirs? Every local economy wanted to keep theirs and yet the problem existed of tremendously inefficient economies in the military system. And