

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 13, 2000 LB 1107

to do that. There isn't any other good mechanism in state law to adjust state aid to schools. LB 1107 would be that mechanism. I don't think that's bad policy, and I don't think it's bad policy to look out into the future and see that unless we adopt something like LB 1107 that we will see increases in property taxes to support K-12 schools, and in a few years, we will be back where we were four or five years ago with people saying that their property taxes are too high and why can't you do something about it. That would be the worst irony for me, to still be in this body at a time when I had to come back again and again and again and say property taxes have gotten too high. Valuations have increased, state aid for schools has decreased, and property taxes are too high, and we need to have some sort of an emergency solution. I'd much prefer the solution that's in LB 1107, which will put us on a steady path, will tell us what our obligation is, will tell the taxpayers what their obligation is. They will fund 47 percent of school spending, K-12 school spending from local resources. Why shouldn't we make that commitment to them and for them and with them? Perhaps, that is the level that they will accept as the...as the responsible mix for funding of schools in this state, 47 percent directly from them in the form of the property taxes, the balance from other sources. And that other sources isn't exclusively sales and income tax, by the way. There are other resources. The other resources in the last certification totalled over \$300 million.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: So it isn't just sales and income tax dollars, but it's a message to our constituents that we don't want valuations in schools to necessarily reduce state aid. We will keep up and we will support K-12 schools and we will do it with the mix that is provided in LB 1107.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The question before the body is advancement of LB 1107 to E & R for engrossing, and there has been a request for a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 1029.)  
27 ayes, 17 nays on the advancement, Mr. President.