

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

emphasis is given on this amendment on the community colleges and whether or not we achieved dollar for dollar property tax relief. I think Senator Wehrbein probably explained it very well. It may be a nebulous deal, something we never quite get at. My...my reason for focusing on that, on community colleges, is certainly not to suggest that they are not doing a good job, or that there is anything underhanded that went on. I'm not suggesting that at all. Rather I'm suggesting that with any type of a transfer program like this, you're likely not to get a dollar for dollar that appears as a dollar for dollar for everybody concerned. There are other issues, in my mind, that are raised in this amendment. One of them is the cash reserve, what the cash reserve needs to be and should be, and I would suggest to you that we're getting on the lower end now of what is an appropriate range. In terms of property tax relief, I would certainly say, again from the standpoint of community colleges, the day of reckoning will come and I think the sooner the better. To the extent that you postpone it another year, makes it even more difficult for community colleges to explain to their taxpayers why it is they are...they are increasing their levy, because it's been two years since it was at the higher level. Also I would mention from the point of...viewpoint of a property taxpayer, I think that one of the things that's important is sustainability and consistency, and I think to some extent the Legislature discredits itself by offering a policy that results in a herky-jerky, up and down program of property tax relief. I think it makes more sense to try to do something that can be sustained over a course of years and really, although I don't have a specific proposal for you here in that regard, I think one could be developed, and I would suggest to you that it would enhance the development of such a thing by putting this money into the cash reserve, at this point, rather than continuing this program for another year. I have not seen Senator Kristensen surface here, so I'll assume he's still working on that. Thank you.

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

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I rise in support of Senator Raikes' effort. When this was, when \$10 million was taken out of the General Fund for