

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 925

CLERK: Okay. Senator Wickersham, now FA363, Senator. (FA363, Legislative Journal page 1496.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm tempted to follow Senator Landis' line and say that this is the reprobate amendment but, in all honesty, Senator Landis, I don't think of myself as a reprobate and I don't think of myself as a grinch either. I've been called both recently. I hope neither of them stick because it isn't my own self-image. I do think that we're addressing serious issues here and that we need to get ourselves focused and, as Senator Landis rightfully suggested, we're maybe now in the posture to do that. We've had a morning's worth of discussion. Think we're starting to get the issues framed in our minds and this amendment that I'm offering will frame the issue for us. Now, Senator Landis says that the floor amendment rewrites his bill for him. I suggest that Senator Landis had a hand in writing his bill. He supported the Hilgert amendment. Said he liked it. Most of you said you liked it. In fact, I don't remember there were any negative votes as the amendment came up. On the other hand, there is a substantial amount of controversy concerning the underlying provisions of LB 925 as it came out of the Revenue Committee and, in fact, that's a bill that, as you're now of course well aware, I cannot and will not support for a variety of what I consider to be good policy reasons. On the other hand, the Hilgert amendment I can and would support and will, so I'm caught between having something I will support, something I absolutely cannot support, and this amendment separates the two issues; separates the bill into the portion that I can support and will support--the Hilgert amendment--from the portion that I can't and won't support, and those are the provisions of LB 925 as they came out of committee and then were amended. It's that simple choice. Do we find ourselves with something we can support or do we find something that we kind of have to have a mixed bag and maybe support, maybe support if somebody twists our arm hard enough? I'd rather make this an easy vote for myself and hopefully an easy vote for you, and that was...is what I think we would accomplish if we now adopt my amendment. I'm not trying to rewrite your bill, Senator Landis. Actually, I'm trying to make, I hope,