

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

April 5, 2000

LB 1138

would not be an exact number. In fact, there's no way to give you an exact number because we wouldn't know the component factors for the following year. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Members, the Legislature has begun this morning's business, if you could take your conversations off the floor out of respect to your colleagues. Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on AM3212.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Mr. President, thank you. As I've indicated, AM3212 simply, in addition to the changes that were in the previous amendment, simply delays the effect of making changes in the county distribution formula by one year. I don't know if I need to belabor the description any further. I'd be happy to respond to questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. For discussion of the Wickersham amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1138? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I think this is a bill that we should pay a lot of attention to it because it sets some precedents that should be of great concern to everyone. First of all, it contains some complicated changes in formula and basically indicates, as I understand his amendment, that one year down the line these changes are going to go into effect unless some of the counties that don't like the changes can get a bill through his committee, changing the formula again. And I don't know how many of you have tried to get a bill through the Revenue Committee that the Revenue Committee wasn't in accordance with the Revenue Committee's philosophy, but I would suggest to you that the percent that get through is about between 1 percent and 0 percent. And so you might as well figure that whatever this bill is, it's what it's going to be, and I really don't see that there is any light at the end of the tunnel for anybody that doesn't particularly like the Revenue Committee's philosophy. Now having said that, let me try to start to get into some of the issues on this bill, and I think maybe one of the first ones to focus on is the provision for the automatic increase in state aid based upon a growth factor in all three of these state aid