

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

April 22, 2003 LB 759

were. So I'm going to listen because I think that Senator Brashear is giving us an opportunity to fully understand what is going into this revenue package. But I think that we also have to look at where our spending is in addition to where our revenue is coming from. Forty percent of our budget, almost, now is made up of aid to local political subdivisions, 40 percent. So if we don't adjust that then we're going to have to have much bigger adjustments, either in revenue or on the spending side in the other areas. Another 25 percent is aid to individuals, which is growing at sometimes at double-digit numbers. So that percentage is going to increase substantially if we don't make some adjustment to the people who are receiving it. So that leaves one-third of the budget, including higher ed, all the operations of state government, and Corrections to make any adjustments to. The other reasons that I'm going to listen and participate are that I believe that not from a controlling spending standpoint, but from a taxing standpoint we need to tax where the economy is going, and I believe that the economy is going more and more to services and to nonlocal retail. And we have to adjust to that reality, and Senator Brashear has been talking to us for years and years and years about making that adjustment and that is something that is separate really from balancing out our current situation. It has to do with...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...whether we have appropriate tax policy and it also has to do with whether we are making fair our tax policy for the businesses. The other reason that I am going to listen is that I think that this is the place that our constituents really want to know about, and we are going to need, if we adopt even just parts of this, but I certainly hope that if we move forward we don't just adopt parts of it because I don't think that the package is complete unless it's a package. If we adopt parts of it we are just...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...plugging the holes in the dike. Thank you.