

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

April 22, 2003      LB 759

preliminary decision one of the municipalities came to us and, because of the language that was changed a couple years ago, they had pledged this for their bonds and it could have affected their bond rating, so they asked if...and I wasn't privy to the discussion that went on, but when I got to the committee, that was our last day, they had asked to reduce the money in the General...in the aid to cities general fund money by the same amount so that it was a wash in terms of taking the \$3 million from MIRF but leave it in MIRF, and we sunsetted MIRF in two years.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So what is the net benefit to the state and when will it be realized?

SENATOR THOMPSON: In the Appropriations Committee bill that will come out on the budget, we will have a \$3 million immediate General Fund benefit, but it's going to be coming from the cities' aid fund, because the message we got was they wanted to keep MIRF for two years to help that particular municipality that had pledged the money, so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Before you sit down, Senator, we could adopt my amendment, then deal with that particular complex of issues that you and Senator Don Pederson discussed when either the appropriations bill comes out or a different bill, if it was contained in the different bill. Is that true?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I guess so. I would say that the bill that the Appropriations Committee had a hearing on the bill and it's referenced to us and it deals with the material, so it's just going to become part of the...it is a part of the big budget bill and have to be reconciled if you did it at this point. I don't have a...my issue was other governmental subdivisions are going to have to help out. MIRF has been cut before in tough budget times and it was going to sunset in five years anyway. My bill was just to sunset it this year because I think we're going to have these budget problems for at least four more years anyway.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Tyson is not going to be asked a question by me this