

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

April 23, 2003 LB 759

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of Senator Brashear's bill, I'm sure we will have a much better discussion of this. But I think everybody needs to be cognizant of the choice that is being implemented right now with this decision. You choose to restore only half of the pro..of the income tax, then what you're choosing when you do that is to allow the property tax to get out of control again by increasing those levies. And we will have to make a decision about which direction we want to go, but I know the direction I don't want to go, and that's increasing property taxes again. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members, Senator Beutler, I'm going to sound like the same song, second verse, probably, but that was really...the points that you were making were really the ones that I wanted to make. I haven't spoken much on this bill, but I believe that, one, it doesn't raise enough revenue and, two, it doesn't raise the revenue from the people who can afford to have us tax them. And I actually wanted to share with you some thoughts of some of my constituents. And back about a month or so ago, I sent out a newsletter and a survey to 12,000 households, I think it was, in the district, and asked for people to send back survey responses to different questions about issues that we were going to deal with this year. And probably only about 250 surveys came back, which I think is about normal for a mailing like that. But most of them said that they thought we should cut the budget some, but then when I asked them about if they thought taxes should be levied, at least temporarily, to handle part of the revenue shortfall, they said, yes, on almost a 2 to 1 margin. And that was my first inkling that people really were out there in front of the Legislature maybe on this one, as sometimes I think they are. Then as I began getting e-mails and letters from my constituents following up on that survey, and reading some of their comments from the survey, they were saying in the strongest words imaginable that we should not cut K through 12 education any more and that we should not cut the University budget by the amounts that were being talked about at that time,