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believe it was '98 when it actually started, but it took the base year of '97, Northeast grew at 33 percent that year, and they were not caught up in time. So that's what's affected them very much. Right now, they have a higher student per teacher ratio than any of the other community colleges in the state. They've already been cutting already. They've cut their operation and supply budgets the last two years by quite a sum. The equipment spending was cut 50 percent this year. They've eliminated four service programs and two sports programs this year. They had a total of four sports programs, and eliminated two of those. As Senator Tyson told you, this affects only the 20-county service area in northeast Nebraska. And to give you a little example of what it would mean in a tax increase, if you had a \$100,000 house, the first year it would be a \$10 extra tax, the second year \$15, the third year \$20, and the fourth year \$25. And then in the fifth year it goes back to nothing. Now, the study that was done to figure out the problem and what to do about it came back, and all of the community colleges agreed, there is a problem with Northeast. And they all went along with the idea that Northeast should have more funding. And originally, Northeast was coming in to try to get more funding from the state...the General Fund. And I know I was one, and I assume the other senators told them, there was no way that was going to happen this year. There was just no money to be given out through the General Fund. So at this time, there...we don't really see another chance. This is about the only thing we can do to help Northeast College. They're very, very important to northeast Nebraska. And I would hope that you would consider giving this a positive vote. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Landis on the Tyson amendment to LB 540.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill is still in Revenue Committee. And it languishes there because it can't get five votes to get out. We didn't call a meeting of the committee, although I think there are five votes to kill the bill, because it would change this from a 25 votes to a 30 votes, and I think Senator Tyson is entitled to his day in court on a 25-vote standard, not a 30-vote standard. This is a hard one. This is a hard one to me, because Senator Tyson is