

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

April 29, 2003 LB 407

amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM1600 is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the second amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Maxwell, AM1601.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Maxwell, you're recognized to open on AM1601 to AM1111 to LB 407.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. If I can, what I'd like to do is pass over my amendment for now and let us go ahead and work through the committee amendment, and then come back to mine when we're finished with the committee amendment, if that's possible.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is passed over.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Mines, AM1610. (Legislative Journal pages 1513-1514.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines, to open on AM1610 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR MINES: Mr. President, colleagues, I offer AM1610 and I, too, like Senator Beutler, I intend to pull this. The reason I bring this before the body is it's aid to municipalities. And just, I think, as a point of reference and maybe as a bit of being there, municipalities took a...last year, received a 25 percent decrease in their state aid, and were okay with receiving another 10 percent this year. However, the additional \$3 million in state aid cuts is severe. In fact, it results in a decrease in their total state aid from our current budget to the proposed budget of about 60 percent. It's significant. It's significant by itself, but I think more importantly, if we are going to restrict aid or reduce aid to municipalities and counties and schools, we should also look at the other side--how might they be able to recover this revenue through property tax? Right now, cities are capped at 45 cents on their levy, and 2.5 percent spending increases is capped. Now cities can go to