

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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alluded to. I really don't want to be here to do that, but I don't know if it's going to be completely avoidable because I'm not sure that we can predict what's going to happen. So from that standpoint, I rise to share a perspective and I think it's one similar to probably what Senator Smith has shared and similar to what Senator Brashear has also said. I think we need to look at the situation at hand and realize that we can no longer continue to do what we've been doing, period. I'm exchanging e-mails continuously, it seems like, on the floor here with individuals who want to know where do you stand, what are your thoughts, what are you willing to cut? And honestly, I think we in the Legislature have to sit down and look at what we have engaged in over the past decade specifically and say we have taken on this responsibility, now we have a problem and those same groups that came here as a part of the solution are still here as a part of the solution. We might disagree on what those levels are, but I'd also like to point this out. Not everything that's the difference between the underlying bill in LB 407 and AM1111 is directly going to be a property tax increase. There may be some, but to make broad statements like that I think is a little unfair to those public boards who are also out there facing similar decisions. Because there are limitations on what people can pay. There are limitations on what people can do politically and realistically. And I think when we get into this discussion, I think we need to understand somebody will pay. That might mean property taxes. That might mean renegotiating agreements. That might mean renegotiating benefits. That might mean a number of things. But I think within the discussion I think it's fair and I think it's appropriate that we talk about the realities. I have a lot of discussions when I go home on the weekends. I have town hall meetings all over the place. This weekend I've got seven of them. I've got eight counties. And we're going to sit and we're going to open up the books, like we've done the last four months, and we're going to talk about what do you like, what don't you like, and there's a variety of opinions. And that's probably the hardest part that we have here. No matter what decision we make, everyone is going to be frustrated, everyone is going to be disappointed. But so far I've been encouraged by the discussion. I am also concerned about the out years. I'm concerned more about 25 years from now probably than that,