

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

April 30, 2003 LB 622

Jensen voting yes. Senator Hudkins voting no. Senator Vrtiska voting no. Senator Erdman voting no. Senator Kruse voting yes. Senator Hartnett voting yes. Senator Combs voting no. Senator Kremer voting no. Senator Smith, that's a yes, isn't it, Senator? Senator Smith voting yes. Senator Mines voting yes. Senator Quandahl voting yes. Senator Cudaback voting no. Senator Friend voting yes. 27 ayes, 15 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments are adopted. I do raise the call.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Back to discussion of the bill, itself. Any senators wishing to speak? I see none. Senator Raikes, you're recognized to close on advancement of LB 622, if you care to.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I realize this is a difficult choice to make. And I think Senator Baker pointed out very well, this is not something you do without a real need to do it. I would tell you that there has been an effort, I believe, to deal with counties and county governments in a similar fashion as with other local governments. The message, to me, from counties was that our most important highest priority program is inheritance taxes. We don't want to lose access to inheritance tax funds. The other programs that serve counties are less of a priority. That makes this something that we need to address. I think that the approach we're taking here is reasonable. It is certainly a serious approach. We're not providing any funding during the budget biennium, and then after that the funding would be restored but with the accompaniment, if you will, of a minimum levy penalty provision, which is, again, something that is not new or unique to this kind of a program because it's also used in the school funding formula. So, again, I realize this is a tough decision, particularly for rural counties but for all counties; 80 out of 93 counties receive money from this program. This is something I think you need to do as a responsible decision maker for state government. So I urge your support.