

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 1, 2003

LB 440

municipalities so that rough...Lincoln gets roughly \$517,000, I assume, over a biennium of MIRF money. So you're saying that there would be a reduction in that amount from the aid to municipalities fund for the nine years...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, the...

SENATOR BOURNE: ...or until 2009?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The restoration of the aid to municipalities would not include Lincoln.

SENATOR BOURNE: The restoration from the committee's cut or...?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The restoration of the cut that was made, so that all of the cities and municipalities would get a higher amount of aid to municipalities, but Lincoln would not get a higher amount.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Lincoln's would be reduced by the amount that they're getting in the MIRF fund instead.

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. Thank you, Senator Beutler. I'm still struggling, quite honestly, as to what to do here. I'm with pretty much everybody on the floor that we need to cut, but it's difficult for me to advocate a cut unless everyone is cut. And while I appreciate what Senator Beutler says, it's going to come through another fund, I'm just...I'm not certain. What happens in three years from now if we have a turnover in the Legislature and somebody makes a motion to restore some funding that might have otherwise been cut from the municipal aid fund? I don't know. I guess I'm struggling as to what to do. I was talking to Senator Loudon and he mentioned that this is one of the only areas from which small communities can draw cigarette tax funds and I'm almost under the impression that we shouldn't pass LB 440. We should allow these cities to maintain this access of this money. So I'm going to continue to listen to the debate. I do appreciate the dilemma that Lincoln is in, but I'm not sure if the state should...