

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

May 1, 2003

LB 440

in our history were so locked up that Appropriations couldn't touch them, because now we have things that are formula funded. We have things that say specifically in statute how much money will be allocated in a given year. So, unlike the Appropriations Committees of years ago that really did take a big look at things and did budget to everything, we only can budget to a little piece. So we have to bring bills in and we, as a committee, put out dozens of bills. This bill I put out, but I probably could have been successful in taking it to the committee to get it as a committee bill, but I just got rolling at the beginning of the session, put it out. But we put a lot of those bills out because we're trapped...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...in the committee on what we can get to in terms of being able to fund the core functions of the state. Now counties are an arm of state government. They are the rollout for a lot of our laws and they are an extension of state government. Cities are, in my view, something we consider important but we have chosen to give our revenue to the cities to offset some property tax issues. This was done for another purpose totally, but I think we have to make these vertical cuts this year in this budget, because the only way we're going to do them is by bills, and now you know how hard it is to make those changes that are coming from bills that have been given to subject committees. Our committee, the Appropriations Committee, advanced this bill. So did the Revenue Committee. I think we should sunset it this year. I don't see any reason to yack it to death...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...anymore. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. This bill here is something that smaller municipalities depend on quite a lot, this type of funding. The other day we