

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

May 7, 2003

LB 540

extra sales tax dollars if you give us the authority to do that, wouldn't you suppose that the people would give them the authority to override? I think they would. However, what we were told is that they were afraid if they went to the people they wouldn't get the authority from the people. Shouldn't the authority really rest with local control? The people? I think there's a good argument. I think they can go to the public. I think they can make their case. I think they can sell it. But not all municipalities could, because not all municipalities share the problem that Kearney has. But this bill would actually give that authority, without a vote of the people, to override the budget lid. We've been talking about what would happen with local property taxes. If the Legislature doesn't cut, what will happen to local spending growth, if we want to lift all of these lids without a vote of the people? The authority is there. It rests with the locals. They can take that authority. They can ask the people and make their case. Mr. Speaker, since these bills were killed in committee, I'm not clear as to how many votes would be required.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Redfield, are you requesting a ruling on that at this time?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Yes. I'm not clear what it would be.

SPEAKER BROMM: Why don't I take a little time while the next speaker speaks, and then I will give you a decision on that.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you. I am through with my remarks. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm. Senator Raikes, let me ask you to give us a little primer, because I'm honestly asking, because I'm kind of forgetting the rationale for some things. But with respect to budget lids and with respect to levy controls, levy lids, the whole concern, of course, has been the ultimate control of property taxes, and trying to keep a lid on property taxes while we increase state aid and therefore hopefully bring under control, to some extent hopefully, property taxes. But to