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LB 540

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, perhaps, you know, somewhat the same argument. And you may know more of these than I, because I really didn't get here while...or wasn't here when a lot of this mechanism was put into place. But basically, it is a control on spending growth for local governments. It relates to property taxes, certainly, but it is a limit on the amount a local government entity can grow its budget, without, as Senator Redfield has pointed out, special permission through a vote from its taxpayers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And it's because they have tax sources other than property taxes that it becomes important with regard to some political subdivisions?

SENATOR RAIKES: An important one, for example, for cities, as you well know, is sales tax.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Raikes. Senator Raikes, your light is next.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I thank Senator Redfield for her comments, and also for raising the issue with our esteemed Speaker about the number of votes required. And I assume that contemplation process is ongoing. I would just, again, remind that this amendment really does nothing with schools. It deals with other government entities. And not only doesn't it deal with schools; it goes in the opposite direction for those other government entities that we're going for schools. And there are two...and I forgot to mention last time that LB 540 pushes the basic allowable growth rate for schools from two and a half down to zero. And it also makes a zero basic allowable growth rate for community colleges. So both of the school systems that are involved in this bill, the effort is clearly to reduce spending authority, and I think you would agree for good reason. In the times we're in, that's the direction we need to be going. This amendment would take the bill for these other subdivisions in exactly the opposite direction. We have a forum for these sorts of discussions and for these sorts of issues. It's the Revenue Committee. The