

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

this is another very hard hit on counties. The others, I guess the University of Nebraska and others which, frankly, I understand, I've said, if you remember, from the beginning that if we were going to make further cuts it would have to be in higher education and K-12 state aid, and I'm proposed to offer those in...some time this afternoon; have those amendments drafted and I think will be more appropriate, if you will, in terms of the degree of cut and it does not dissect many of the state agencies that are on this list. And so I will do that, offer that in due time. The only other one I wanted to talk about was Agency 96, the Property Tax Assessment. That is a very severe cut, \$324,000 times 2, \$600,000. We've already cut that agency 9. This cuts another 9, for a total of 14 to 18 cuts in the property tax...Property Tax Assessment Commission. And I think we've tried hard to get our property tax values uniform statewide and so I'd be very reluctant to make a cut, a further cut, in this when we already cut 8 or 9 employees in our present budget proposal. This doubles that almost to 15 to 16. I think...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that's a very severe cut in that particular agency. So I am prepared here, a little bit later on in the afternoon, to offer some alternatives that I think are more appropriate, much along the line that I've been saying publicly that education is going to have to take the increasing amount of hits if we're going to cut back from 354. I accept that and, as I said, when it's appropriate I'll offer those amendments. They're still being drafted. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, on April 25, the Appropriations Committee submitted to you this goldenrod copy of our efforts of three and a half months to determine what the appropriate needs were in our opinion for the ongoing needs of our state, and it's been in your presence. You could examine it and see how we came up with it. A little over maybe three hours ago we received from Senator Erdman this