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LB 622, 759

gave an estimate last year to the cities, this is how much money you're going to receive. And what we're doing is not lowering that figure, is that they would have gotten the, whatever you want to call it, they would have got extra money, windfall, whatever you want to call it, of \$1.3 million this year. So this simply holds it harmless for them by doing this. And so they got an estimate, this figure is higher, and so I think we have made substantial cuts in state government. I think we need to do the same with the cities, so I rise to support this amendment and will give the rest of my time back.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, actually, the person in the Chair can always be referred to as Mr. President or Madam President, because that's the function in which they serve, and anybody who's in the Chair actually should be called Mr. President or Madam President. Let me get it right. Mr. President, every cent the cities are promised under this program is given under the Raikes amendment. Every promised dollar goes. There is no cut in any promised dollar. This is not a cut of a program that we said, you know what, you're going to get a million bucks; no, no, no, we were kidding, you're only going to get \$800,000. Huh-uh. We said you're going to get a bunch of money, and they're going to get every promised dollar. That's not a cut. Secondly, the schools, the counties and the cities were all going to get hammered by this budget this year, and they all got hammered up until LB 759, because when LB 759 occurred, the schools get hammered, the counties get hammered, and the cities don't get hammered. Now there's a problem with the cities, and that's because the sales tax cities, and there are 130 of them, they get well, and the "non-city-sales-tax" cities don't get well. But as a group of political subdivisions, the cities now, because of LB 759, do better than the counties and they do better than the schools. If there's a way to help cities, you do it in the other aid programs. You do it in other parts of the budget. What you wouldn't do, I don't think, is to take this unexpected money, which is not the subject of the formula but is, in fact, the subject of a windfall, and use that to assist a political subdivision that has this funny differential