

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

May 20, 2003

LB 622

fact that somebody took the time to figure out that we had a situation here where we could right the ship of state just a little bit more with some money that had not been designated, promised or allocated, and I think it makes terrific sense to do it. I support the amendment. No one can...that understands it could criticize us legitimately for doing this, and I think the people of the state would feel that if we pass this up and don't take this action that we perhaps aren't quite being quite as thrifty here as we should be. Because the first thing we have to do before we can be helpful to cities or counties or other political subdivisions is we have to have our own ship in order. And even though we're doing a budget that we think is a good budget and should take us through the next biennium, I'd submit to you that there are unpredictable things lying out there, especially with the world situation and the economy, not to mention the mad cow disease or anything else that happens, that can cause us to be less than the thin margin we have for Cash Reserve in our budget, and all it takes is a cylinder or two to misfire and we are on thin ice. So when we have a chance to put \$5 million into our coffers to help us get through the next biennium, money that was not earmarked, not promised, not known about, I don't believe, to most of us, we by gosh ought to do it. And I don't blame the cities for making a hard run over noon to get a hold of this money, but I don't think that we ought to let that happen. I think the right thing to do is to adopt the amendment, and I'll support doing that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. On with discussion. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I just have a few more comments and I would just like to bring the issue as to what the difference is in Columbus as far as the dollars that we're talking about. Columbus has been receiving anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year from the Municipal Equalization. Not a year. I misstated. A quarter, \$20 to \$30 thousand. In 2000, in July 1 of 2000, instead of the \$30,000, Columbus received \$118,000, so that would be about \$90,000 more in addition of what Senator Bromm has just stated that that was...that was, you know, not promised or anything