

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

May 21, 2003

LB 283

tax rate decreases temporary, we should make our tax increases temporary, so that they can be reexamined in the light of different economic circumstances. I certainly hope that there are different economic circumstances in four years. And the other thing that it does is make sure that we don't build it into a base that becomes part of...an accepted part of the spending base, and makes certain that it will make it more difficult for those individuals in four years to make decisions. And it gives us enough time to plan. Four years is enough time to plan for right now, for the current economic climate. But it doesn't lock us in. And what I'm afraid of is that without the Brown amendment, some of our efforts, in terms of truly being fair in expanding our tax base, will become less necessary. And if we are going to expand the sales tax base to follow the economy, part of the rationale has to be that we lower the rate, so that there's not such a great impact on those industries or those kinds of services that previously were not taxed but now will be taxed. I think that it gives us some...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...discipline in that regard. And I would strongly urge the adoption of the Brown amendment, even in light of some of the specters that exist out in the electorate. Thank you.

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

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of the Brown amendment. We did talk about sunseting the bills earlier on the General File. We talked about a two-year sunset, and the body was uncomfortable with that. This would provide a four-year sunset, which in fact does kick in right at the time when term limits would replace half of this body. So I think that in fact it is a good idea for people to make a conscious effort on their tax policy and set their tax rates. It should be a conscious vote. It should be clearly understood by the members of the body exactly what they want their tax code to look like. Senator Landis brings up the issue of any kind of tax petition. Well, there could be all kinds of petitions that go onto our ballots. And I think that it's poor