

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

May 21, 2003

LB 283

you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek and members of the body. I too would support this amendment of Senator Brown's. I think it's a very good idea. Really, I don't feel that any of these taxes...tax codes like this should be considered permanent, nor should they be considered temporary. The way the tax code is set up for our state is we have to balance the budget. So all of those adjustments and those numbers should be fluid, so that they can be adjusted from one year to the next, should be adjusted automatically. And I think it's a very good idea to put an end on anything where we raise any fees, or we lower any levies. Whatever we do, it should have an end date on them. I think this is a very good idea, and this is an amendment that would make sense to me. I think when any of this tax measures that we've been working on lately should have been done probably in the same frame of mind. So I appreciate Senator Brown's work of bringing this forward, and I intend to support the amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Bromm, you are recognized to speak.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. I have a different view of this, perhaps, than some of those that have spoken. Probably a few weeks ago I would have probably been willing to introduce this amendment myself. However, we're in a situation, I think, where we're making some difficult decisions here on the sales and income tax. I happen to think that the public will not give us any credit or credibility for putting a four-year sunset on the taxes we're doing. We will be criticized for being...for a hollow gesture, for shooting blanks, if you will, Senator Tyson. I think that we might as well, with the facts that we have before us, genuinely say, this is what we think we need to do for tax policy. Certainly, every year and every biennium when we do our budget, everything is reviewed. And it very well could make changes. But I do not think we will get any credit for this being a temporary tax. And it's possibly going to cause some pain at some point to come back and reextend it. The other thing is that my view of our tax situation here in the state...and perhaps it will be changed after some more