

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: With great trepidation.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Excuse me. I'm having a lot of difficulty understanding your philosophy in this whole object. You continue to say you don't oppose increased taxes, and basically that's what this boils down to. And as I read it, what Senator Wehrbein is trying to do, to keep the amount of dollars flowing into the county and the state that was under the previous plan, and we're going to lose, obviously, some money with the bill the way it's constructed. Now, I'm trying to understand your perspective in saying that you're agreeable to increasing taxes to provide the programs that are necessary for state government, yet, you're opposed to this amendment. And I'll give you a couple minutes. You've been talking about it, but I'm having difficulty understanding it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: First...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Would you give me...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. First of all, this is not a state tax. This money will not go to the state. It will not underwrite any state responsibilities. Secondly, the bill was strongly supported by the county officials, knowing what the consequences were. Thirdly, they did not request that this tax on the tax be imposed. So there's no compelling reason for us to put it on.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. I understand what you're saying. Do you think that the counties, at the time that they...and here you say the counties. Is that the counties as a whole, or certain counties, or...my...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The counties as...the counties as a whole.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. I guess what I'm trying to understand is if they understood when this was done what the losses would be. Apparently they didn't because this...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, they did, because the trend has always been there. They knew.