

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

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

as you increase the levy, the amount of money, the amount of savings to the state, is about \$10 million per penny increase. So a 5 cent levy increase amounts to about \$50 million, although I would point out to you that as you...the more you increase the levy the financial impact becomes less because you push more schools into a nonequalized situation where they don't receive state aid, so the reduction is not as much. One other thing I'll point out quickly, there's a handout coming around with a heading, "K-12 School Property Taxes Levied." If you're interested in knowing what's happened on property taxes for schools since 1996, this, I hope, gives you a summary of what's gone on there. So again, I would offer that for your information. Finally, I will tell you that I do support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. There are...Senator Chambers has mentioned the possibility that the state could go a different direction in terms of securing the additional revenues rather than, in effect, increasing property taxes, do income tax, or some other combination of taxes. I'm not necessarily disputing that. What I don't want to do, though, is to have the state or to have us as a Legislature dodge the issue.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: I do think we need to face it; we need to face it squarely. I would...my position is going to be to support this amendment. If at a later stage in discussion you decide that, look, instead of property taxes we want to do some other kind of taxes, okay, but let's face up to the issue. Let's not...let's not assume or hope that it's going to go away, because, as I look at the state's fiscal situation, I see no way that it's going to disappear. So with that, I do support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Raikes. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to the Wehrbein amendment and to the bill and to the plan before us. I do want to say that if this is the direction you want to go, I think the \$1.10 makes sense. I think there's logic to Senator Wehrbein's approach, but I think we're going