

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

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

do. We're going to have further debate, if this doesn't pass, of the \$1.05 level. Doing nothing, which some of you want to do, is not a very good option, in my mind; \$1.05 is an option, but it's not very good in terms of the message we're sending. I can't detect any consensus at this point as to where we would go if we didn't do this. And I don't actually know if there's even a consensus on this. But this is where we are truly getting into a collision in terms of where we're headed out into the future and what we're going to do down the road. And if we're going to leave a bigger gap out there, or whether we're going to try to narrow it, whether we're going to try to give warnings to the schools, which, to me, is one of the most critical parts of this, is giving some kind of direction or at least a guide to the school districts as to what they will be able to do in two years hence, so that they can. It hasn't been emphasized enough perhaps, but the tax due...what we're doing here today, the first tax will come due May...April or May of 2006. By the time we go through the process next year, the valuation and the new tax levy and the levies that's going to be done, this is out. That can be good or it can be bad, but I...there is time to make adjustments. But once again, we've emphasized over the years that...or at least you've heard from local entities, give us somewhat direction that you're thinking of going so we can plan. This does that. There's been some suggestions we could go one year, and perhaps we can. But we have a two-year biennial budget that we have to face up to next year, and we probably will be having this same exact debate. If there was a calendar to write it down, I'd write it on your calendar, next year on the 22nd of March, the first day after spring, we will be debating state aid to schools. Very well could be. And property tax, and sales tax, and income tax, and what their proper role is. And the reason I say that is, I find I talk to the media about this, they say, what's one over the other? Well it's the same old song. And for Senator Chambers it's 35 verses, and for some of us it's 20 verses, and some of us it's 2 verses. But the old thing goes on and on and on. So I don't know if this is the right answer, but this is the best answer we could come up with. And I ask you to look at it in that light. This does solve the issue for this...the next year is pretty well set, obviously, starting this July. But July 1 of 2005 till June 30 of 2007, this is the area we're talking about. And