

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

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

fewer schools that are in equalization aid, so there is some...so if you're going to only raise the levy 2 cents beyond \$1.05, why, going to \$1.07 is the best way to do it. Although, I can't think how else you would do it. But at any rate, I do support the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Beutler, Schrock, Brashear, Chambers, and Baker. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Very briefly, Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to support this also, as I said earlier with Senator Chambers. I debated about putting it in. I didn't know when the right time was. Senator Chambers was able to run up there ahead of me. But I appreciate the talk on this, because I look at it a little bit as a risk management situation. Seven is better than six; seven is better than five; not as good as ten. But if we're going to work towards some kind of consensus here, and if you look at the vote, we're quite a ways apart; \$1.10 had 15 votes. That means there's 34 that have other opinions yet. And that's what these last 15 days are for, to winnow down to where we can have some agreement. A dollar seven helps us. I think there's another possibility in this. If, in fact, valuations are going up, there is a remote possibility--and I'm not predicting this, and I don't want to vote on this at this way--but \$1.07 may be enough, and it may not, and we may have to make some adjustments. But at least it says we recognize the problem, and we're willing to go at least part way to solving it this year, and leaves the opening for next year. But I think it ought to be strongly considered by those of you that are uncertain, at least on General File. And as Senator Chambers said, and I would...just because he beat me to it, I would say we can...we'll have to discuss it again at Select File with the whole gamut of options that we have in several areas. It's not easy at this stage to make these decisions. Our committee started going through these issues, probably the middle of January we recognized we were going to have it, and it got, obviously, quite a bit worse on February 27. And so that next week was pretty miserable in terms of having to recognize things we were going to have to do. And that's where the \$1.10 started to get legs. So we can do it