

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

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

at \$1.07, and that helps us move along till we get to Select File. I'm very satisfied with that, and I'd urge your consideration also.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler, on the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure that this retreat from our position on property taxes is necessary at this particular point in time. If we leave it at \$1.05, we're already 5 cents worse than we were a year or two ago when we were on our path to property tax reform. If you take it to \$1.07, then instead of being \$100 million short, you'll be \$60 million short. And that's okay, in the sense that you're sizing this thing probably more easily for an income tax solution, because I think Senator Hartnett's bill, if I'm remembering right, Senator Hartnett raises about \$70 million over the two years. So \$70 million, that would cover the \$60 million that you would have with Senator Chambers' amendment. But there are other solutions out there. Senator Brashear's solution is there, that can cover a much larger than that. Or Senator Hartnett's income tax bill can be made to take in a larger amount than the \$7 million that he has envisioned. So rather than retreat now on property taxes again, and announce to the public that we're going to allow property tax levies to go up even more at this particular point in time, why not leave it with the Education Committee member... Education Committee number at \$1.05, go to Select File, see what our ultimate solution is, and then, if you have to go back to \$1.07 in order to accommodate whatever that solution is, fine, do it. I hope we don't have to do that, though. I'm hoping like crazy we don't have to do that. So it seems to me that what Senator Chambers is offering may or may not be necessary, but that it's premature and it sends the message that we're going to give way on property taxes even more, and that's not a message I think we should give unless we really, really have to. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schrock, Chambers amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature.