

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

March 22, 2004 LB 916, 962, 1093

don't know whether we like bonding out 15 to 30 years either. And I don't know whether you'll like the amount of repayment that's going to be locked into that budget to pay those bonds off for the next 15 to 30 years, whatever that ends up. But it will not be an inconsequential amount in our budget, if that's what you're looking at. And I'll admit, it can be kind of a chicken or an egg. Senator Beutler says let's move ahead with LB 1093 with the committee amendment, and we can decide on Select File which way to go. I understand that; it's a chicken or an egg. On the other hand, I think we'd be better off to do \$1.07 at this point and see whether those other options are even doable, even they're agreeable. Are there going to be enough votes to do that? Either way we can go, it'll take 25 votes to change. And so I know some are working against this proposal, \$1.07, because they think they're going to have 25 votes for something else. And, frankly, I don't necessarily see that there are 25 votes for anything. But, at least, if we can... I think \$1.07 is a reasonable compromise at this point. It takes us a step closer, and so I strongly urge your reconsideration. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers, you are next, followed by Senator Smith, Jensen, Bromm and Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, about this time during the session, Senator Wehrbein and I manage to wind up converging and agreeing on an approach relative to at least one or few aspects of the budget bill or a budget-related bill or issue. We are in that posture here today. Senator Baker said we don't have to do anything today and he is right. We don't have to pass a budget bill this session. We certainly don't have to pass LB 962 or LB 916, and I could mention any other bill. We do not have to pass any bill this session. There is nothing in the constitution that would say we have violated our oath of office and, as a result, we are in jeopardy of losing our seat in the Legislature because we do not pass a certain bill even if it's the budget bill. So that is a point which I will concede to Senator Baker. But as far as our trying to be reasonable, practical and realistic, we have to begin narrowing our focus and paying attention to what might