

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

April 25, 2005 LB 40

aside \$20 million, \$10 million a year on an annual basis, for A bills, for new legislation, for the things that we want to do out there that we are not currently doing. And that amount disappears as A bills are passed, or it disappears as you decrease revenue sources. So compare the \$10 million a year that's available in this budget to the talk that we've heard so far that the business incentive package may be \$20 million a year, \$30 million a year, \$40 million, \$50 million, I've heard all the way up to \$80 million a year. Folks, the money is not in the budget for any business incentive package on the scale that's being discussed, so that means one of three things, or a combination of those three things. You cut spending in the recommended budget by huge amounts, and let me tell you that if you do that, you do two very damaging things. You shift spending back to the local government, which means increased property taxes; or two, you start cutting the university and the state colleges and the community colleges;...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or three, you find another revenue source. You cut the budget, you find another revenue source, or you don't have business incentives. We're going to have business incentives. All of you want to do it. I want to do it. We know there's going to be tremendous pressure to have a substantial package of business incentives. So if you're not going to cut that down the other thing you can think about, God forbid, is increasing a tax to cover it. If there were a logical tax, a logical sales tax to increase, it would be the sales tax on real estate transactions. The uses to which we put that fund now--housing, affordable housing,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...rental assistance--is similar to what we use business incentives for, and I'll talk about that in a bit.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I listened to Senator Beutler