

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

if you start with fiscal year 2001-02...actually, let's go to 2002-03 on page 41. If you add MIRF and state aid to cities, if you add those two numbers together, it's roughly \$16 million that the state is aiding municipalities. The next fiscal year, it went down to \$14 million, and since then, fiscal year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08...or 2006-07, if we go that far, it's \$11 million. So \$14 million in fiscal years 2003-04 to \$11 million. That's the \$3 million we're talking about. That's what the cities agreed to give up, but they...their...for two years. Now it's time to honor that commitment. And there's been general...there's been great debate, you know, why this? Why do we want to reimburse...or excuse me, why do we want to make cities whole when we've got counties that took hits, we've got schools that took hits? We can generalize that everyone suffered. And I'm not necessarily picking one over the other. I just happened to see that municipalities had a deal on this floor. Let's honor that deal. A deal is a deal. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Bourne, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And again, I just want to bring us back to what the agreement and the discussion was. But before I do that I want to say that a \$3 million cut in the state aid to municipalities is about 25 percent, so I don't think there's any other entity that was cut that much. I guess I'm struggling as to...I was jokingly calling the Appropriations Committee the "iron claw" because once they have you in there, they tend to stick together like glue and you can't break them apart. I was lucky enough to escape their grasp a year or two ago. But listen, I want to get back to what I perceive the deal was. And you know what? Think about how our relationships work down here. Think about a lobbyist or a colleague that said they were going to do one thing in two years, you do this today, two years from now we'll do this. You would never...you'd never go back to them again. And now I'm not saying anybody has deliberately forgot what the agreement was, but I've read to you the transcripts. I've read to you the transcripts of what the agreement was. And Nancy Thompson, Senator Thompson, can say it's male bravado, whatever