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body. The thing that really concerns me is that, you know, there was a bill that was passed. It got passed by an override of the veto. Then it got changed down in several years again. What does that really mean, you know, to me as a third-year senator down here? You know, when we pass something and we feel that it's an obligation, in my opinion, it's an obligation of the state to the county, and that, to me, would have been the real property tax relief. But I want to hear...I'm not going to take all of my time this time, and I want to hear a little bit of the reasoning behind the original bill from Senator Cudaback. I want to give him some of my time. If he don't utilize it, I'll take some of it back. But I want to hear where he came from originally to start with this program. So I would turn time over to him.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Sen...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Cudaback, you have 3 minutes and 55 seconds.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry, Madam President. It's been a long ride here. This bill has been about six or seven years in the making and we thought we got it passed, and many things happened between times. I know there were many people on this bill. Senator Wickersham modified it, changed it, or amended it, and we added some road...to fix up the roads on it, and then that got taken out. Governor Nelson vetoed the bill because he didn't like the Wickersham amendment, and then I had to get it overridden. It's just been a long, long bumpy road. And we thought we got it held up here and with Senator Pederson's help, we did. Now we're back to maybe not quite what we think it should be, but these are obligations of the state after the prisoners are sentenced. That's the bottom line, not before they're sentenced. After they are sentenced, they become the obligation of the state. It's just that simple. We're not giving the money to the counties. As in the MIRF situation awhile ago as we discussed, the state does not owe the cities one dime, no obligation there at all. All we give them was, you might say, a gift, which is fine, but no obligation. Here it's an obligation because they are prisoners and they are the state's responsibility after sentencing. It's that easy. I