

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

May 6, 2005

LB 542

much money that did increase. We've tinkered around with the state aid to education levy limit and that sort of thing. Whenever we do that, that puts it back on the property taxes, and that usually put it back out in the rural areas that, as some of the Education Committee members say, the rich districts that have a high valuation, and consequently, they receive less state aid because of the way the valuation has been stacked. So we, we've worked with all kinds of tax methods. I don't know as anybody was expert at it here in the Legislature, but they've come up with different tax plans, of what did we call it, the people's tax plan and various things over the years. And we really have gotten the thing out of kilter, but I tell you for one thing, I represent large rural districts out there, and property taxes is eating their lunch. And probably the biggest consumer of the property tax is the school systems. Now, are the people that are using the school systems, are they the ones that are paying for the school systems, or is this people that aren't using the system? So is there a question, should those that are using the facilities in the school systems more be paying more in some other type of tax than those that are just landowners, which is usually the largest contributor to property tax? We have our property tax to support our community colleges. A few years ago there was money from the state put into community college fund so that property taxes was down less than 5 cents on community college. As the state had their various problems, why, they've raised that now, and in our area, why, we're up to 12 cents on a community college. That all went onto property taxes. Somewhere along the line, I agree, we need a study of the situation. Whether this is the right way to go, I think it's as good as any, to start. There isn't anything in there that says that there's going to be any laws passed from it, but there will be some study, some findings. The commission, as it's being called, would have the authority to have some people look into it a little bit deeper. But I think there could be some recommendations, and I think there would be something positive come out of this, whether it...I don't know as you have to spend the whole \$100,000. That's what they talk like there's appropriations. I don't know as you'd...if you're not having 30 people on there, I wouldn't think you'd need that much money. But nonetheless, if there was the necessary to hire outside consultation, why, there could be some money available.