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

May 6, 2005 LB 542

it. I don't know how to change this, to try to get at it. I've tried to say, maybe it should be the son of Syracuse study. Update the Syracuse study may be an answer, some way to see we're...Senator Landis reminded me of the most...of about several of those. Most of those we ignored, even after we spent a half a million dollars, and it's collected a half inch of dust. We still haven't done that; when the reality is, once we get the studies, it still turns political. And we've got a political body here. We've got the Revenue Committee that's political. We've got the rest of us that are political. So I don't know that we've defined exactly what we need to do to get to where I think many of us think we ought to go. haven't...we haven't defined that. I, like I said, struggling with articulating where I think we should go. But I don't...I just don't believe that this approach is the way to I kind of wish the Revenue Committee had tuned this a little more. They have the expertise on their...based on those experiences. I don't have tax policy expertise particularly. They haven't been available. I haven't been able to have all the information available to me as to what they... I'm sure many of them can articulate off the top of their head--sales tax, income tax, what sectors are paying, what aren't, so forth and I can't; some, but not all. So at this point, until there's another solution offered by somebody smarter than I, I just can't advance this bill. I would if I thought there was some way to get at the numbers, the data that I talked about yesterday, or day before. If we could get some updating of where we were...from where we were ten years ago about the sectors. We know the income tax is increasing. We know sales tax, for example, is fairly even keel. Income tax goes up and down. Just to look and see if some of those extensions...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...of the numbers that we have now may be adequate enough for those of us in here to make political decisions, because that's where it's going to end up. Just for example, if someone comes in and would say, you know, business is paying too many taxes in Nebraska, or agriculture is not paying enough, I don't know whether that would change the body's opinion or not. So I'm struggling. I just wanted to...thinking