

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

May 9, 2005

LB 312

SENATOR BEUTLER: Which is \$7 million a year?

SENATOR LANDIS: Oh, I think that's used right now as an accounting (laugh) system, to figure out what's left that could be spent for the agenda.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR LANDIS: The desire is, I think, to ramp down with training, as this ramps up, to get somewhat of a flat impact. But the better number for this bill, six or seven years out, would be \$50 million, not \$40 million.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, if you look at our financial status for the next couple of years, for this two-year term, we're like about \$50, \$52 million in the black. The first two years of this package will cut that in half or more, so we're still all right for the first two years. But for the next two years, we're already \$111 million in the red, and if you add \$40 million or \$50 million to that, you're going to be up to \$160 million, \$170 million in the red. You may hope that revenues will increase once again by some substantial amount, more than has been predicted, but that may not be the case. If that is not the case, then you should know now...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that the property tax reduction, going back from...did you say one minute, Senator?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I did, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The property tax reduction that is scheduled for that period of time, going back from \$1.05 to \$1.00, simply cannot happen. So we're already getting to the point with this, and maybe we should think about some choices we could make now, in terms of revenues, because if you go ahead with this and do nothing in terms of revenues, you're putting yourself in the position where you cannot do the property tax relief that's already scheduled in the statutes. Now there are