

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

March 9, 2006

LB 248

back to the cemetery districts, and I'm talking...every political subdivision that has any tax authority that is taxing, gets a piece of this puzzle. And it's not very big, and I know the fire departments out there, they get a few dollars a year out of this. Same way with a lot of the cemetery districts and so on. And it's a bookkeeping exercise I don't think we need to put the clerks through. We can streamline this. And one of the other issues that affected my decision to carry this bill was we continually hear the cities and counties needing more money. And that goes back to the accountability issue we're talking about when we adopted the Revenue Committee amendment. We wanted to make sure that they were spending what they were getting on roads and infrastructure. But be that as it may, we'll talk about that later. But the underlying testimony we've heard in both Transportation and Revenue Committee is, we need more money for cities and counties. I saw this as an avenue to do that. We're putting it in the Highway Allocation Fund, which is split, as Senator Beutler and several have commented, goes 50 percent to the counties, 50 percent to the cities. And that 50 percent that goes to the counties is based on, I think, 8 or 9 factors. The formula that distributes the money on that 50 percent to the counties, I believe is based on three factors--population is the big one, motor vehicle registrations, and I can't even think of what the third issue is. But I'm getting it. The third one is the total number of miles of traffic lanes and streets in each incorporated municipality, and that has 20 percent weight. So 50 percent population, 30 percent vehicle registrations, 20 percent miles of traffic lanes, is the way that half that goes to the counties is distributed. And just for educational purposes, since it is on my time, the other half that goes to cities is population 20 percent, total population in each county, municipal county, 10 percent, lineal fee to bridges, it goes on and on. There are seven of those factors go into the distribution formula for the county half. And I think it's important that we do this. It increases or creates some efficiencies in government, all the way from the state level, which is collecting this, down to the county level. There's a few districts, granted, that are unequalized, and I don't feel terribly sorry for them, where they have more valuation than would qualify them for equalization aid. And the formula is working, and this does