

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2006

LB 248

are no lights on. You're recognized to close.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. It's been a good discussion. You can make a decision here. It's moving money, granted, from the TEEOSA...or to schools. They will be refunded that money through TEEOSA, except for the unequalized districts. You can frame it in that aspect. It will be moving money to cities and counties. It's been very difficult for Senator Baker, conservative western Nebraska senator I am, to carry bills raising the fuel tax year after year for the cities and counties and for Department of Roads, and never getting them out of committee. This is a way to address a little bit of that. And I do have a couple other comments that, you know, the distribution is one issue, but you have to understand that the money we're talking about is generated by transportation--vehicles; in this case, heavy trucks. And this is, I think, about the only place now, other than that half cent that we allowed to go to the General Fund, that we have money generated from users of highways, roads, going to not only schools, but all the political subdivisions. So we can...for consistency, I think I have been consistent. I've tried to raise taxes, fuel...the permanent fuel tax, and direct it toward cities and counties. That didn't work. This is a means we could do that. The money we're taking away from the equalized school districts will be made whole through TEEOSA. You also have the schools receiving fines, it was brought out to me. Schools receive all the fines, and I'm wondering if that's something maybe the senators coming back might want to look at. Why do schools get all the fines, where you could make the same argument, I guess, that they're getting all those fines. Maybe we ought to split those up. So this provides a good tax base. These are apportioned vehicles, heavy trucks for the most part, that are licensed by the state and then the money, as we've discussed, is disbursed back to the county treasurers on a per county basis, depending on how many vehicles are licensed in each county, and then that county treasurer goes through the process of dividing it up, apportioning it to the various political subdivisions. So this amendment eliminates all that inefficiency, puts money in the Highway Allocation Fund, goes to cities and counties, and the school districts, with the exception of the unequalized