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

March 22, 2006 LB 968

fix itself. There is a problem. It needs to be addressed. I'm not sure that this amendment exactly solves the problem. But it's something that will come back next year if we fail to get to the bottom of it, and I fear that today, unfortunately, as well-intentioned as this amendment is, it's not going to solve the underlying problem, which is the funding formula that is flawed. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER PRESIDING

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator Landis, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Baker. I think Senator Flood's argument is, this language will spend money on a system that's being studied for its existing flaws, for which we don't have a map or plan to change, and yet we're going to put more money in a system that there arguably are flaws in the structure. That's one darn good argument. Let me give you a second darn good argument, and that is that this is not \$26 million of property tax relief. I wish it was, but it's We cut community colleges. We told them, you can make upour own sources the difference. We gave them authority from your own sources the difference. level back. Not all of them used their authority level to get back to where they were. When they take this money, they won't be replacing property tax dollars. About half of this money will simply go into their pockets for increased spending. of the reasons this bill got killed in the Revenue Committee was, our best guess was, was half the money was simply more spending by community colleges, and not property tax relief. And the reason is, they're not at their maximum levies. So if you give them more money, they're going to get a chance to reduce their property taxes. It's not the case. In fact, what they're going to do is they're going to keep it and they're going to be able to spend more money. So from my perspective, the system needs to be studied before we put more money into the formula. And secondly, the existing problem is, this will not be dollar-for-dollar property tax relief. There's a third problem with it, and that is that at some point, this starts to dominate every other piece. Look, you had a bill. It's in committee. The reason this amendment is going to take 30 votes