

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006 LB 79, 845A, 924, 1024, 1113, 1113A, 1222A
LR 274

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, any items for the record?

CLERK: Your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB 1113, LR 274CA, LB 924, LB 79, LB 845A, LB 1113A, and LB 1222A, all to Select File. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1415-1419.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any announcements? Mr. Clerk, please inform the body where we were when we recessed for lunch.

CLERK: LB 1024 was before the Legislature. The next amendment I have to the committee amendments is by Senator Howard, AM3013. (Legislative Journal page 1381.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on AM3013 to the committee amendments, AM2687.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As a member of the Education Committee, I have several concerns about what has been proposed by LB 1024. One of the biggest concerns that I have is the likelihood that property taxes for every homeowner in the new learning community will go up significantly. For that reason, I am offering AM3013, which would remove the two additional levies included in the committee amendment. The first levy is up to 5 cents for special building funds, and the second levy is 2.5 cents for the administration of the learning community. The levy lid for the learning community school districts would be allowed to increase to \$1.10. I have been told by some that raising these levies does not guarantee that property taxes will go up, because it will be up to the school boards to raise their taxes. But we all know what the reality is really going to be if we allow these levy increases. The school boards are going to see this as an opportunity to raise more revenue by going to the levy limit. Even if the districts do not immediately raise their levies to the new limit, what happens the next time the state budget runs into trouble and we do, as we have in the past, and cut state aid to schools? These districts are going to have to make up for lost state aid somewhere, and they will do it by raising property taxes, and the blame will fall squarely upon