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March 17, 1998 LB 695

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I don't...I don't have that number. I can get that to you later. I think maybe that was included in the report from the Property Tax Administrator's Office when they gave us the latest certificate of taxes levied. But I...I...I don't remember the number, Senator.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, thank you. And if you could...if you could, I'd appreciate it. And I'll look in that reference that you just gave me, to try to find it. But, Madam President, I raise this issue from the perspective of looking at it in a global fashion. My recollection is, and I'll certainly correct myself, if necessary, is that we have a total impact to local governments as a result of the levy lids of less than \$160 million total. Prior to the adoption of 695, this Legislature has allocated \$148 million in this biennium for property tax relief. Now, the idea has been from the very beginning to try to provide for the loss of revenue as a result of the levy lids. And I would...and we talk about a partial replacement, so that we can encourage local governments to look at ways to more effectively deliver their services and ensure that property tax relief occurs for their property taxpayers, because that's where it's going to occur. People that have looked at the history of property tax relief efforts, through the state aid formula, over the course of the last 30 years, have to come to the conclusion that it has not provided long-term property tax relief. The mere fact that the state provides more dollars to local government has not related to property tax relief. That's my concern. I raise this from an overall perspective as we continue to look at providing more property tax relief to local governments. Right now we're at \$148 million and rising. I think we, if we're not over the number already of what their loss was according to 1114, we will be shortly. For the record, I intended to support LB 695. Because of the previous amendment that was adopted I can no longer support LB 695, and just want to make that known for the record. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING