

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

March 10, 1999 LB 149

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Debate is ceased. Senator Kristensen, to close on your amendment to LB 149.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. President, I'd like to have the house placed under call, please.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: We have a motion to place the house under call. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays to place the house under call.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The house is under call. Would members please record their presence. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Thank you for your patience. It's not easy to stand here this morning and talk about difficult things when you don't have to do it. We don't have to have this debate today. It's in our best interest that you do it. I know that I'm going to have my own school districts are going to be angry at me for doing this. The easy thing is to walk away and say, look at this blue sheet, be happy, you're going to get more money. My job is not to be the state super school board. My job is to be a state senator. My job is not to blindly close my eyes and say, whatever it takes, you're not going to be held harmless. We're in this all together. This morning the most distressing thing to me was this is going to cause unpredictability. The Wickersham amendment, you got to give Bob Wickersham a lot of credit, because Bob did really what he thinks is the right thing to do in a situation that he doesn't like to do. He did put back the predictability. Where is the unpredictability in this? We certify those numbers February 1st to the schools; they're going to get that money. They're not going to be...they're not going to have that money taken away from them. That's the predictability and that's the stability, they still have it. Now we did it in a distasteful way, maybe, for a few people. But the bottom line here is, who is going to look at the entire big picture and the long term? If we continue on without some